Izumi Tsubaki

MONTHLY GIRLS' NOZAKI-KUN

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[ISSUE 11]

VACATIONING

OOH!
CONGRATULATIONS!!
THEN YOU FINALLY HAVE SOME TIME FOR FUN, DON'T YOU?
WHAT DO YOU USUALLY DO WHEN YOU HAVE A BREAK?
.....
WELL... USUALLY...

...I START WITH CLEANING UP MY ROOM.
I STEPPED ON SOME TOME.
GAAA (VROOM)
I RESTOCK MY TOOLS.
ONLY HAVE ABOUT FIVE MORE SHEETS OF 61...
AND ONCE I'VE AT LAST FREED MYSELF FROM MANGA...

AT THE DATE SPOT

I HEAR YOU CAN SEE SCHOOL BUILDINGS FROM ALL DIFFERENT ANGLES.
SCHOOL COLLAPSE
学校崩壊
NOTHING BUT DESTRUC-TION!!!
IT'S A HUGE HIT!
IF YOU'RE GONNA WATCH SOMETHING NOW, MAKE IT THIS ONE!
IF WE'RE GOING TO A MOVIE, I WANT TO SEE THIS ONE.

YOU'RE GONNA BUY THEM !?
HUH !?
FOR REFER-ENCE.
HMM...
I WON-DER...
...IF THESE WOULD LOOK GOOD ON MAMIKO...
MAMIKO

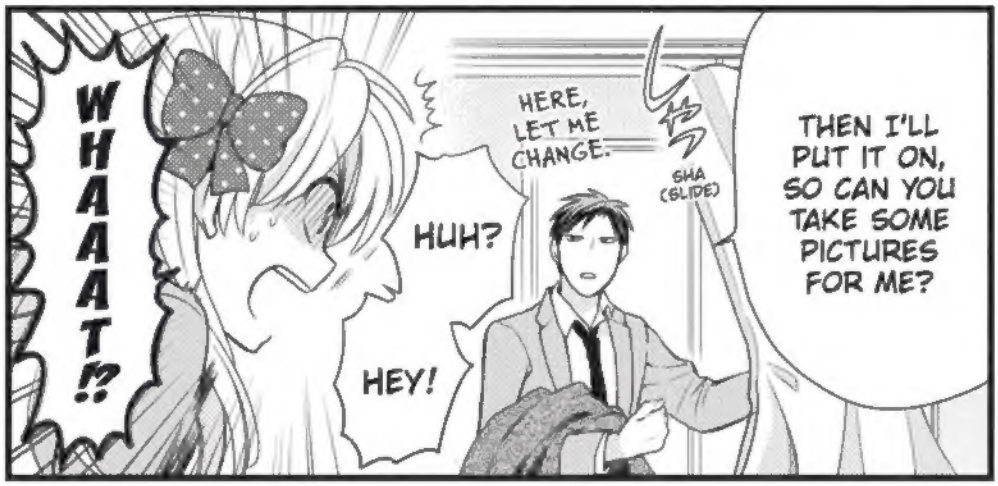
HE MUST BE USING WHAT LITTLE ALLOWANCE HE HAS TO GET HIS GIRLFRIEND A PRESENT...
HOW CUTE!
HEY, LOOK AT THAT COUPLE.
HE'S REALLY INTO THE CLOTHES.
THAT'S RARE!

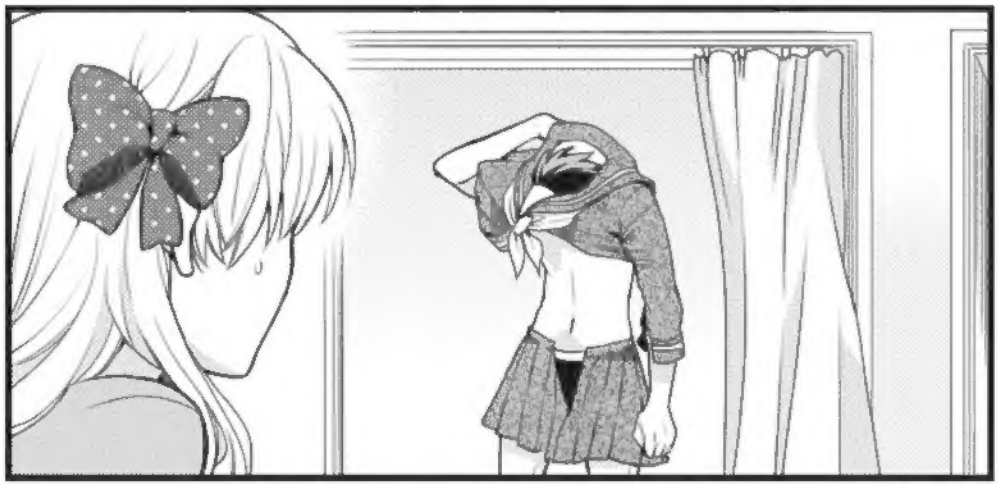
OH...
MAYBE HE'S SAYING SOMETHING LIKE, "THE BLAZER'S NICE, BUT YOU'D LOOK GOOD IN A SAILOR SUIT TOO!"
OH, NOW HE'S GOT A SAILOR SUIT FOR SOME REASON.

ROLE-PLAYING !!??
BA! (JOLT)
ZUI (SHOVE)
WOULD YOU PUT THIS ON AND LET ME TAKE SOME PICTURES?

THE WORRIES OF AN ADOLESCENT BOY

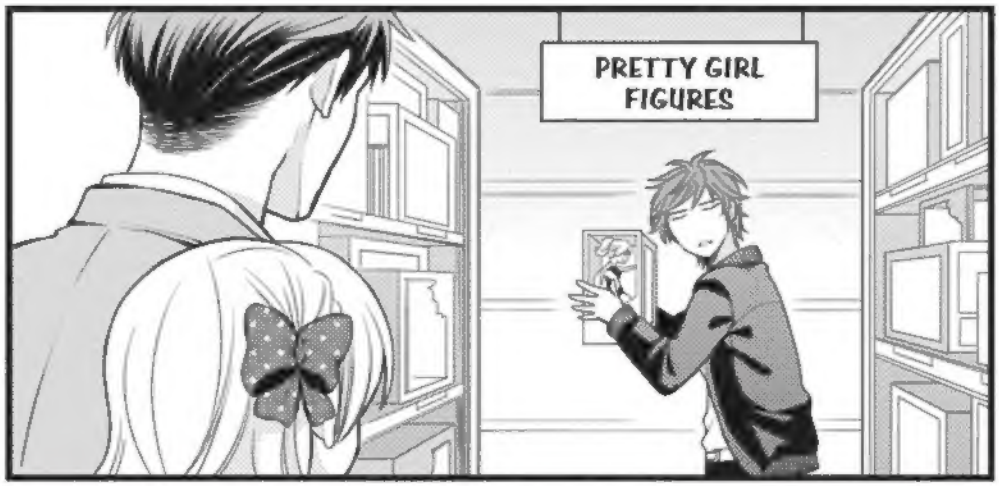
IT'S HARD TO DRAW THE COLLAR OF A SAILOR SUIT...
IMAGINING IT GETS ME NOWHERE...
I STILL CAN'T DO IT!!!
ABSO-LUTELY NOT!!!
TOTALLY OUT! IT'S TOO EMBAR-RASSING!!!

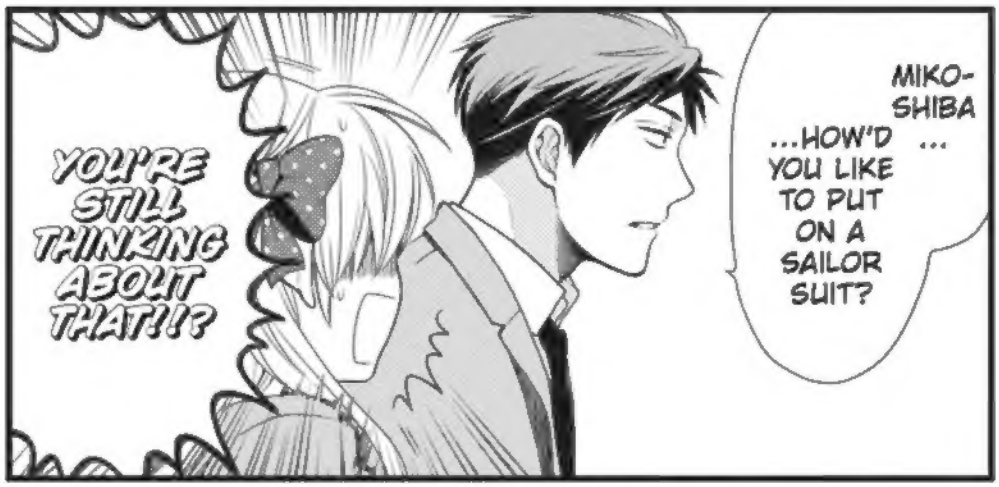




IN THE DOLL DEPARTMENT

TOYS FOR GIRLS
WHAT STYLE SHOULD I WEAR TODAY?
LET'S GO TAKE A LOOK!!!
THEY MOVE! AND YOU CAN PUT CLOTHES ON THEM!!
I-I KNOW !!!
HOW ABOUT YOU GET A DOLL?





AN ALL-AGES FIGURE

HMM?
WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT?
DON'T JUST COME TO BROWSE IN A PLACE LIKE THIS!!!
WHAT THE HELL!!?
YOU DON'T CARE ABOUT THIS KINDA STUFF!!!
WHAT ARE YOU DOING HERE!?

YOU MEAN YOU'RE REALLY INTER-ESTED?
I THINK I DO WANT AT LEAST ONE OF THESE...
BUT, YEAH...
SO IT'S TOTALLY FOR PRACTICAL USE.
AND THE EYES ARE JUST THE RIGHT SIZE.
...I CAN USE IT FOR SKETCH-ING.
IF I DRAW SOME DIVIDING LINES ON IT...
YEAH.
I CAN'T SEE THE EAR...
...THE LEFT HAND'S KIND OF IN THE WAY...
BUT IN THAT CASE...
... HN.
YOU'RE WAY TOO MERCI-LESS!!!
MM.
GUESS I'LL CUT IT OFF!!

SINCE I'M HERE ...
...I MIGHT AS WELL TAKE MY TIME PICKING ONE OUT.
WHAT KIND SHOULD I GET?
ARRGH...
LIKE HE KNOWS ANYTHING ABOUT WHAT MAKES FIGURES SO AWESOME ...!!!
THERE, THERE.
HE DOES HAVE HIS OWN TASTES, YOU KNOW...

.....!!!
HIS TASTES ...!!?
THAT'S RIGHT ...!!!
THIS IS MY CHANCE TO FIGURE OUT WHAT HIS TYPE IS!!!

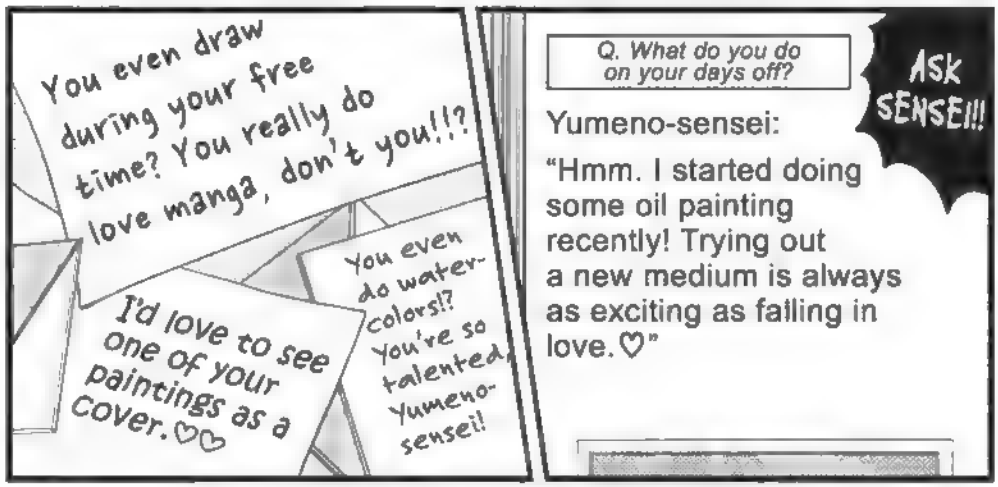
OH, BUT NOW I'M STARTING TO GET NERVOUS !!!
CALM DOWN, CHIYO!!
NO MATTER WHAT SORT OF GIRL HE BRINGS BACK, DON'T LET IT GET YOU DOWN!!!
DOKI
DOKI (BADUM)
DOKI
DOKI
DOKI
OH.
YOU MADE YOUR CHOICE?
YEAH.

I'M GETTING THIS ONE.
SU (SWF)
SO BASI-CALLY, I'M A HOT GUY--
A REFERENCE FOR SUZUKI.
THAT GETS ME DOWN!!!

THE HIERARCHY OF ART SUPPLIES

YOU PRETTY MUCH FOCUS ON WATERCOLORS, DON'T YOU, SAKURA?
YEAH. I'M GOING TO START DOING OIL PAINTINGS SOON TOO!
THE THICK STROKES ARE REALLY REFRESHING!!!

WHY DON'T YOU GIVE IT A TRY TOO WHEN YOU HAVE SOME FREE TIME?
IT'LL BE A NICE CHANGE OF PACE!!
HMM...
ART AS A HOBBY, HUH...


You even draw during your free time? You really do love manga, don't you!!?
You even do water-colors!? You've so talented, Yumeno-sensei!
I'd love to see one of your paintings as a cover.♡♡
Q. What do you do on your days off?
ASK SENSEI!!
Yumeno-sensei:
"Hmm. I started doing some oil painting recently! Trying out a new medium is always as exciting as falling in love.♡"

I IMAGINED IT ALL THE WAY TO PLANS FOR AN ART BOOK RELEASE OF MY PAINTINGS!!!
THAT TOTALLY DOESN'T COUNT AS A HOBBY ANYMORE !!!

.....
...UH... SAKURA...
...SO I'M GOING TO BE LONELY NOW THAT HE'S GOT SOME TIME OFF...
ANYWAY, I'VE BEEN GOING OVER TO HIS HOUSE EVERY DAY LATELY...
DOKI DOKI
HUH ...?
...ARE YOU BUSY AFTER THIS?
COULD IT BE...
...HE FEELS THE SAME AS ME ...?
NOZAKI-KUN...?
...
IF YOU HAVE THE TIME...
...COULD YOU COME OVER TO MY PLACE?
I KNEW IT!!!
I KNEW IT...
MOGU MOGU MOGU MOGU (CRUNCH)
HAVE SOME.
I ACCIDENTALLY MADE TOO MUCH FOR DINNER.

CARRYING OUT HIS ORIGINAL PLAN

I WONDER WHAT IT IS! MAYBE IT'S STATIONERY!
THANK YOU!!! I'LL DEFI-NITELY USE IT!!!
I'M SO HAPPY!
WHOOOOA!!! WOWWW!!! FOR ME, FROM NOZAKI-KUN!? HE PICKED IT OUT FOR ME!?

YOU COULDA JUST MODELED FOR HIM, YOU KNOW.
HUH!?
WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT, MIKORIN !!!? JUST THINK ABOUT IT!!
WHAT IF I ACCIDENTALLY CLOSED MY EYES OR MADE SOME WEIRD FACE!? HE'D SEE THOSE PHOTOS, YOU KNOW!!?
COULDN'T STAND THAT!!!
HA.
YOU'RE ACTUALLY WORRIED ABOUT THAT?
THAT'S WHAT I HATE ABOUT PEOPLE WITH NO SELF-CONFI-DENCE...
...
NOZAKI!! DO I LOOK COOL RIGHT NOW!?
I DIDN'T CLOSE MY EYES, DID I!?
SURE.
YOU'RE JUST FINE.
TOTALLY COOL.

[ISSUE 12]

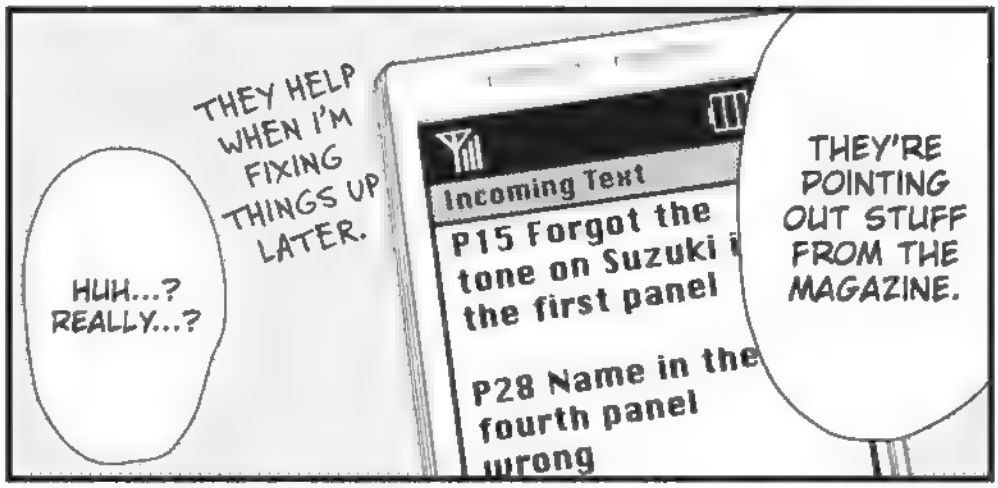
HEY, NOZAKI-KUN, DO YOU HAVE SOMETHING SPECIAL ON THIS DAY?
?
OH.
I'M HAVING AN OFF-SITE MEETING ABOUT MY MANGA.

BUT, MAN, I CAN'T BELIEVE THAT KEN-SAN ACTUALLY INVITED ME TO DINNER...
HEH HEH...
MAYBE HE'S TRYING TO SHOW THAT HE WANTS US TO BE CLOSER...
HUH...?
IT'S WORK, ISN'T IT?

WH-WHAT DO YOU THINK I SHOULD TALK ABOUT?
そわ
SOWA (NERVOUS)
そわ
SOWA
WELL, I DO HAVE SOME FUNNY STORIES FROM CLASS READY TO SHARE...
LIKE WHEN OOTA MAJORLY GOOFED AND STUFF...
NO.
YOU NEED TO TALK ABOUT WORK!

HUH? DID NOZAKI LEAVE ALREADY?
THAT WAS FAST.
HE'S GOING CLOTHES SHOPPING FOR AN OUTING.
HUH?
IS IT A DATE?

TEXT HOARDING


HUH...? REALLY...?
THEY HELP WHEN I'M FIXING THINGS UP LATER.
Incoming Text
P15 Forgot the tone on Suzuki i the first panel
P28 Name in the fourth panel wrong
THEY'RE POINTING OUT STUFF FROM THE MAGAZINE.

YOU'RE GONNA TATTLE !!?
I'D BE LIKE, "LOOK HOW MUCH HE'S ALWAYS PLAYING HOOKY."
I'm going to a concert, so don't send in your draft!!
Reply
Menu
...I THOUGHT I MIGHT REPORT TO THE EDITOR IN CHIEF ONE DAY!!

HERE'S MY PROOF!!!
I CAN'T TAKE IT ANYMORE!!! PLEASE GIVE ME A DIFFERENT EDITOR, CHIEF!!!
OH DEAR ...!!!
WHAT IS THE MEANING OF THIS, MAENO-KUN!!?

...I WORKED OFF SOME STRESS BY IMAGINING DOING THAT.
BACK THEN.
BUT NOW YOU HAVE KEN-SAN.
SO YOU DON'T NEED THOSE TEXTS ANYMORE, RIGHT?
WHAT A RELIEF.

I'VE BEEN TRANSFERRED, SO I'VE ASKED MAENO TO TAKE CARE OF YOU AGAIN.
YOU'D RATHER BE WITH SOMEONE YOU'RE USED TO, RIGHT?
WHOO!
LET'S MAKE MANGA TOGETHER AGAIN!!

...I'M KEEPING THEM SAFE IN CASE SOMETHING LIKE THAT HAPPENS.
KYU (CLUTCH)
JUST HOW CLOSE TO THE EDGE DID HE DRIVE YOU?

SPECIFIC ADVICE

OH YEAH. SPEAKING OF MEETINGS...
MAENO-SAN WAS HAVING ONE IN THE EDITORIAL OFFICES THE OTHER DAY...
HMM... THIS WON'T DO.
IT JUST ISN'T WORKING.
TO BE SPECIFIC, IT'S...
.....

BESIDES, FOCUSING ON SCHOOL JUST BECAUSE IT'S A SCHOOL STORY...IS THINKING TOO SIMPLY!!
BASHI (SMACK)
!!?
WHAT THE HELL IS HE TALKING ABOUT!!!?
WHAT DOES HE EVEN WANT!!?

AND THEN THERE'S THIS SIDE CHARACTER.
HE TOTALLY DOESN'T LIVE UP TO THAT NAME.
SUZU-KAZE ...
MAKE IT MORE COUNTRY BUMPKIN.
CHEER UP.
BUT THAT ONE THING'S SUPER-SPECIFIC!!!

YOU'RE KIDDING ...!!!
AND MAKE HIMSELF SEEM MORE LIKE AN EDITOR.
I'M PRETTY SURE HE WAS JUST ASKING FOR EDITS TO MAKE A SHOW OF IT.

I CAN'T REALLY TELL YOU WHAT'S WRONG, BUT IT WON'T DO!!!
NO. THIS ISN'T RIGHT AT ALL!!!
PASH! (SMACK)
ACTU-ALLY...
...WHEN I WAS NEW...

YOU CAN DO IT WHEN YOU TRY.
YEAH!
YOU FIXED IT EXACTLY THE WAY I WANTED YOU TO!
SO I TRIED TURNING IN THE SAME THING THREE DAYS LATER.

THAT'S THE WRONG THING TO GET BETTER AT...!!!
Don't reject me.
Be nice to me.
I MADE THEM AS CUTE AND PLEADING AS POSSIBLE.
AND THEN I DREW LITTLE CHARACTERS ON THE EDGES OF THE PAGES. THAT MADE THINGS GO SMOOTHER.

TODAY'S TOPIC OF CONVERSATION

WAIT A MINUTE...!!! THE WAY THIS PLAYED OUT IN MY HEAD, HE'S NOW SUPPOSED TO ASK, "HOW'S SCHOOL GOING THESE DAYS?"
YUMENO-SAN, PLEASE GIVE ME A PLOT.
"OH, ACTUALLY, THERE'S THIS GUY NAMED OOTA IN MY CLASS, AND A WHILE BACK, HE..."
YUMENO-SAN, QUICKLY, NOW, PLEASE.

FIRST, ABOUT THE HERO, SUZUKI...
IS HE GETTING LAID OFF!?
EEK!
I'VE NEVER HEARD OF A HERO LEAVING A SERIES PARTWAY THROUGH BEFORE!

I WAS JUST THINKING THAT HE DOESN'T DO MUCH COMPARED TO MAMIKO ALWAYS GIVING EVERYTHING HER BEST...
NO, THAT ISN'T IT.
... HUH?
REALLY?
SUZUKI, THE HERO?
HMM.
THAT'S WEIRD...

HE LOOKS SMART, BUT HE'S ACTUALLY A REALLY HARD WORKER.
HE STAYS UP LATE STUDYING EVERY SINGLE NIGHT...
WAAAH!
WE'VE NEVER SEEN HIM DO THAT IN THE ACTUAL MANGA.
DRAW IT.

AND... ...HE WORKS REALLY HARD AT TAKING CARE OF HIS SKIN TOO!
I'M SO COOL!
I'M SO COOL!
DON'T EVER DRAW THAT.

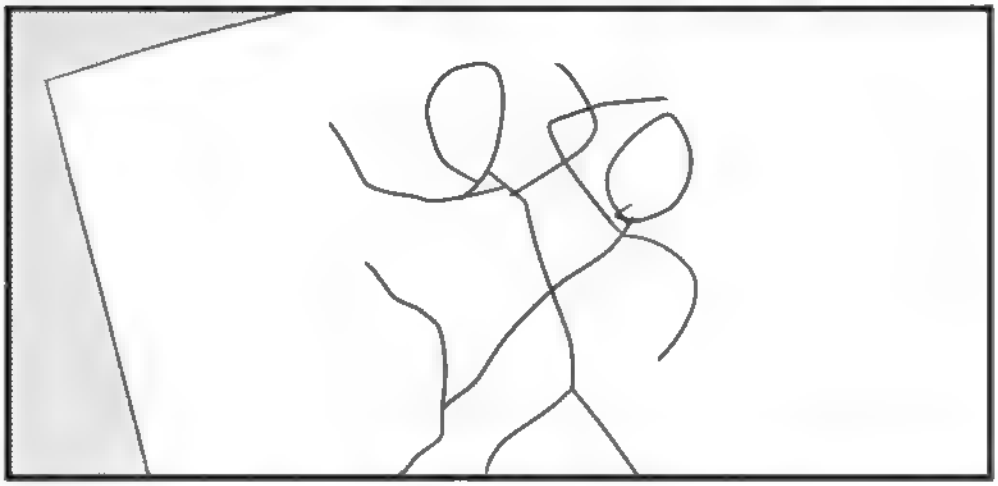
AHH, I'M BEAT! I CAN'T KEEP UP WITH THIS LOVE STUFF...
NO MAIN CHARAC-TER!!?
...SO SHE'LL TAKE A CHAPTER OFF.
SHE'S BEEN WORKING HERSELF TO THE BONE LATELY...

DEAL-ING WITH RIVALS
DEALING WITH FAMILY
PULLING OFF AN EVENT
AND DURING THAT TIME, SUZUKI CAN WORK HARD INSTEAD OF MAMIKO.

BANNER: CULTURE FESTIVAL

I'M STARTING TO RUN OUT OF IDEAS FOR HOW TO LAY OUT THE TITLE PAGE.
SINCE I HAVE TO DO IT EVERY TIME.
LET'S SEE...
ON THAT NOTE, IS THERE ANYTHING THAT'S GIVING YOU TROUBLE RIGHT NOW?

TITLE PAGE: LET'S FALL IN LOVE♡ A GIRL'S LOVE BIBLE / SAKIKO YUMENO



I SEE.
SO... SOMETHING TO SPICE UP THE SLICE-OF-LIFE STORY?
WHAT EXACTLY?
SF
(SLIGHTLY FANTASTIC)
I WAS THINKING OF THROWING IN SOMETHING SLIGHTLY FANTASTIC NEXT TIME.
WE'RE WAY BEYOND SPICE ALREADY!
FIRST...
...AN ALIEN TRANSFERS TO THE SCHOOL.
WHAT SETS THEM APART FROM EARTH-LINGS ...
THEY CAN'T USE MAGIC OR CAST SPELLS.
THEY'RE GENTLE AND RESERVED.
PALASCOIAN
Palasco!
Palasco!
SA CF WISH
TO FIT INTO SHOUJO MANGA, THE PALAS-COIANS ARE HANDSOME.
WAIT, PLEASE CALM DOWN !!!
THEN A PLAIN, OLD HOT GUY WOULD WORK JUST AS WELL.
KYAAA!
ALIEN POWER!!!
...IS THAT THEY'RE A LITTLE MORE POPULAR.

YOU KNOW, I'VE BEEN THINKING THIS FOR A WHILE NOW...
... YUMENO-SAN.

!!!
BASHI (SMACK)
BIKU (FLINCH)
School goes under
Goat bursts in
Microscope slides
YOU'RE NOT TAKING THIS SERIOUSLY AT ALL, ARE YOU!?

I WAS DESPER-ATE...
...SO I THOUGHT I SHOULD MAKE YOU LAUGH.
I DON'T NEED YOU TO DO THAT.
THIS IS MY FIRST TIME HAVING A PROPER MEETING...
...I'M SORRY.

SHUT UP.
THEY'RE PERFECT.
I JUST CAN'T WIN AGAINST YOUR SKETCHES, KEN-SAN.
BUT... IT'S HOPE-LESS.

THERE'S MORE...?
...I SHOULD APOLOGIZE TO YOU.
YOU KNOW ...
...I WAS JUST KIDDING.

TO SEE IF YOU'D STOP ME IF I BROUGHT WEIRD IDEAS TO THE TABLE...
HUH?
I, UH... ...WAS TESTING YOU.

...OKAY, I GET IT. JUST GIVE ME A DECENT PLOT.
MAENO WAS HIS PREVIOUS EDITOR...
OH ...
BUT YOU WERE GREAT!! PLEASE KEEP IT UP IN THE FUTURE!!
GABA (BOW)

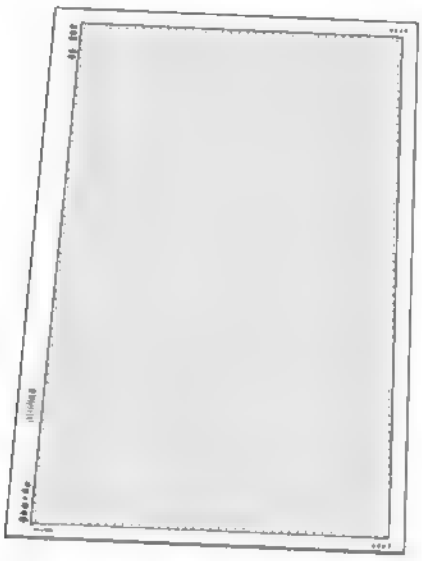
GET OUT OF HERE !!!
I was so busy coming up with jokes that I forgot about it!!

OH YEAH.
DID NOZAKI-KUN'S MEETING GO WELL YESTERDAY?
I WONDER.
I'M SURE IT TURNED OUT WELL.
HE WAS WORKING REALLY HARD TO COME UP WITH ALL SORTS OF STORY IDEAS.
BARI (SCRIBBLE)
BARI
BARI
MORNING ...
... SAKURA.
!
MORNING!
HOW DID YOUR MEETING GO!?
HE REJECTED EVERY-THING!!
WHY DOES HE LOOK SO HAPPY!?

FOR CRYING OUT LOUD. THAT WAS A USELESS MEET-ING...
HAAH
OH?
MIYAMAE-KUN, YOU HAD A SIT-DOWN WITH YUMENO-SENSEI?
... WHOA!
WHAT'S THIS !!!?
I THINK YOU'RE ONTO SOMETHING HERE!
PALASCOIAN
Palasco!
Palas
IT LOOKS SUPER-INTEREST-ING!!!
.....

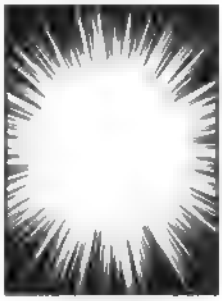
ABOUT TONE

SCREEN TONE IS A PARTICULARLY USEFUL TOOL FOR SHOUJO MANGA. THERE ARE MANY TYPES AND MANY USES FOR HAIR, CLOTHES, AND EFFECTS!

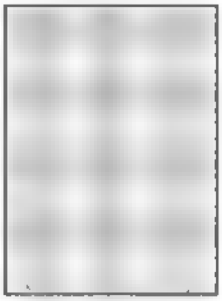


IT'S SOLD BAGGED LIKE THIS BY THE SHEET. EACH TONE HAS A NUMBER, AND BEFORE YOU KNOW IT, YOU REMEMBER MOST OF THEM. (EXAMPLES:) "NUMBER FORTY-ONE FOR SHADOWS ON CLOTHING." "THIS CHARACTER'S HAIR IS NUMBER TWENTY-SEVEN!" THERE ARE DIFFERENCES BETWEEN THE DIFFERENT COMPANIES, SO YOU CHOOSE THE ONES YOU PREFER, LIKE, "THIS ONE FOR CLOUDS!"

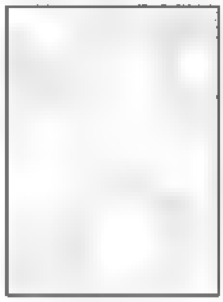
THERE ARE ALL SORTS OF DIFFERENT TYPES.



FLASHES
(FOR BACKGROUNDS AND SUCH)

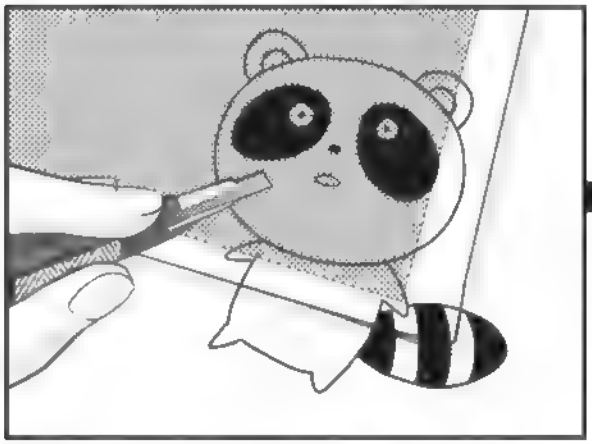


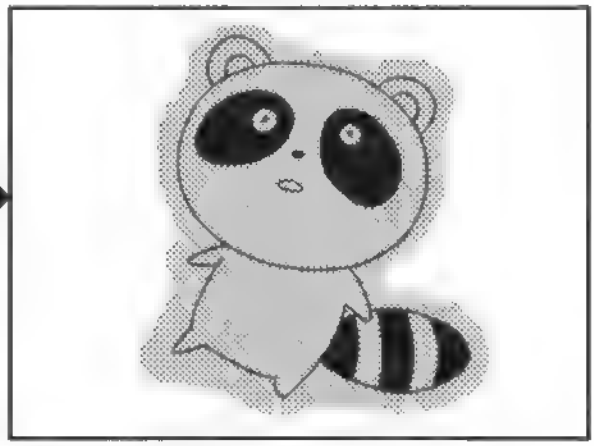
PATTERNS
(FOR DESIGNS ON CLOTHING AND SUCH)



EFFECTS
(TO EXPRESS EMOTIONS)

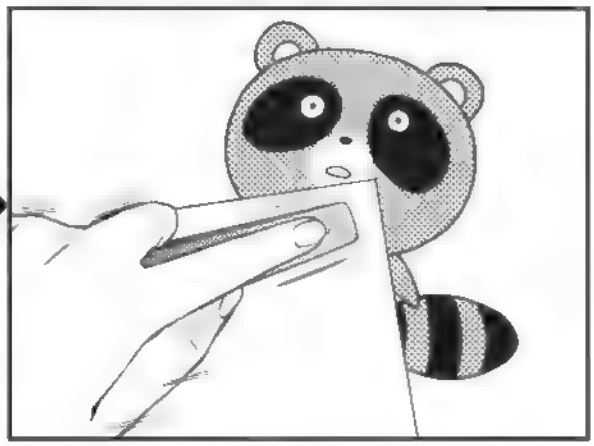
HOW TO PUT IT ON





① PUT THE TONE OVER THE DRAWING WITH THE BACKING PAPER STILL ATTACHED. YOU CAN SEE THROUGH IT EVEN WITH THE BACKING THERE, SO USE A UTILITY KNIFE TO CUT THE TONE A LITTLE BIT BIGGER THAN THE DRAWING.

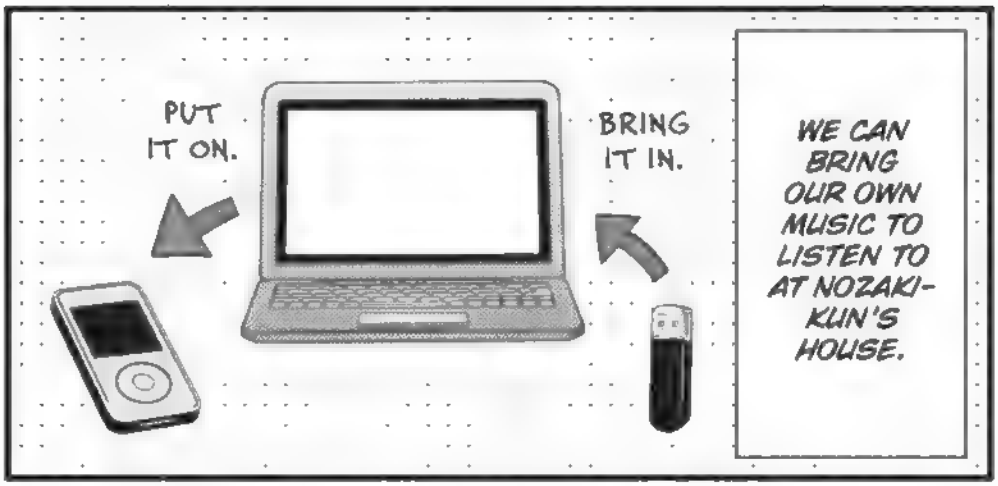
② PEEL THE TONE OFF OF THE BACKING PAPER AND PLACE IT GENTLY ATOP THE DRAWING. (TAKE CARE NOT TO LET ANY DUST GET UNDER THE TONE WHILE DOING THIS.)



③ CUT THE EXCESS TONE AWAY WITH A UTILITY KNIFE. (AT THIS TIME, YOU CAN MAKE YOUR OWN DECISION WHETHER TO KEEP THE TRIMMED OFF BITS OF TONE TO USE AGAIN OR THROW THEM AWAY IF THEY'VE GOTTEN DIRTY.)

④ PUT A PIECE OF SCRAP PAPER OVER THE DRAWING AND RUB WITH A SCRAPER. (※ RUBBING THE TONE DIRECTLY WILL DAMAGE THE TONE.) THE TONE WILL PEEL OFF LATER IF YOU DON'T PRESS HARD ENOUGH, SO GO AT IT UNTIL YOUR HAND CRAMPS.

[ISSUE 13]


PUT IT ON.
BRING IT IN.
WE CAN BRING OUR OWN MUSIC TO LISTEN TO AT NOZAKI-KUN'S HOUSE.

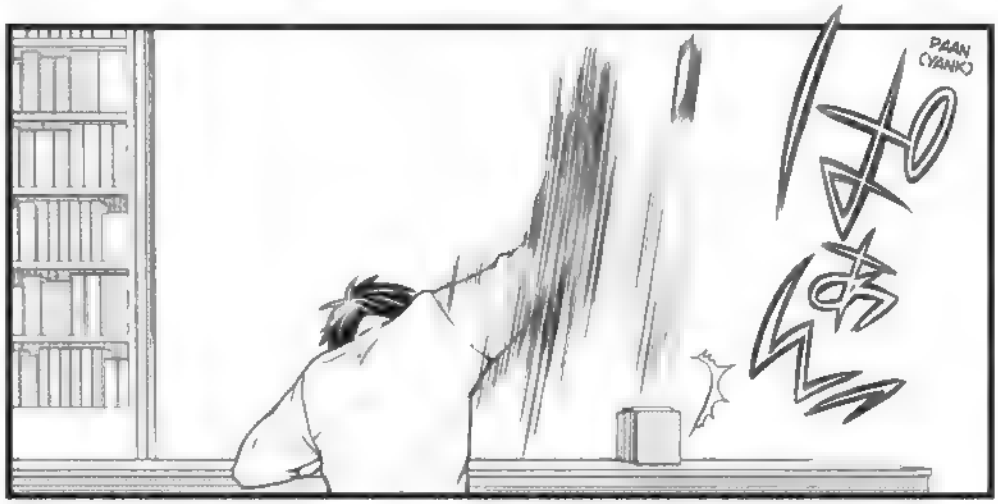
...SO...
...TODAY, I BROUGHT SOME MUSIC WITH ME THAT SHOULD BE HEALING!
YOU'VE SEEMED REALLY TIRED LATELY...

HUH!?
REALLY?
GREAT!!
...SHE DEFINITELY DOES HAVE A PRETTY VOICE...

THAT'S...
...YUZUKI SINGING!
BUCHI (BASH)

THE POWER OF IMAGINATION

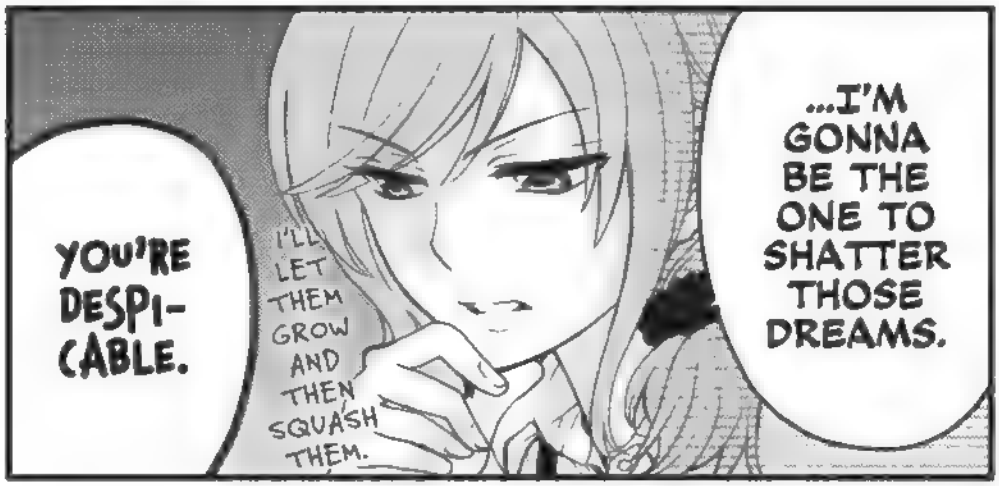
HER SINGING VOICE IS DIFFERENT FROM HER SPEAKING VOICE, SO MAYBE...
...IT'LL BE OKAY?
...OH WELL.
GO AHEAD AND LISTEN IF YOU WANT.
IT'S REALLY PRETTY!

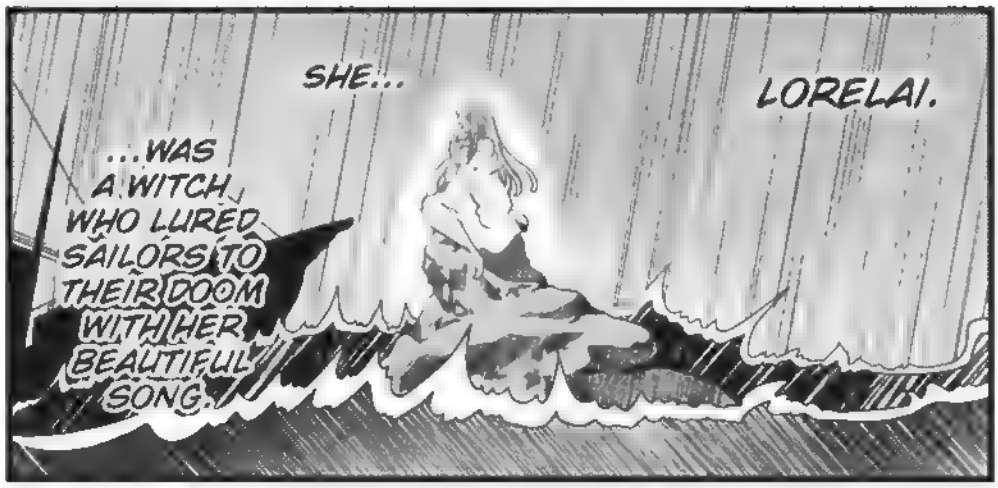


THE GLEE CLUB'S LORELAI ...
I JUST WANNA SEE HER FACE ONCE.
ZORO (CROWD)
ZZZ
ZORO
ZZZ
AWW, I LOST HER AGAIN TODAY.

EVERYONE GETS ALL THESE WEIRD IDEAS ABOUT ME JUST BY HEARING ME SING.
I BET SHE'S A TOTAL BABE...!!
YEAH.
DO YOU HIDE YOUR TRUE IDENTITY?

MAYBE SHE'S ACTUALLY A GOOD PERSON...
...AND, WELL...
SEO...
I WANNA LET THEM DREAM.
IF I DON'T SAY ANYTHING, THEY CAN STILL DREAM.


YOU'RE DESPI-CABLE.
I'LL LET THEM GROW AND THEN SQUASH THEM.
...I'M GONNA BE THE ONE TO SHATTER THOSE DREAMS.


SHE...
LORELAI.
...WAS A WITCH WHO LURED SAILORS TO THEIR DOOM WITH HER BEAUTIFUL SONG.

...ANGEL!!!
MY...
GARA (SLIDE)
TODAY, I WILL FINALLY CATCH YOU...!!

GERA (CACKLE)
GERA
GERA
ANGEL!!!
A—
BWAH HA!

SO LEADING THEM TO THEIR DOOM IS A GIVEN...
ZOO (SHUDDER)
GERA
GERA
GERA
EEEEK!
AH HA HA HA HA
MY STOMACH HURTS!!!
AGAIN!!! SAY IT AGAIN!!!

NOZAKI-SENPAI!
LONG TIME NO SEE.
WAKA-MATSU...
YOU AT PRAC-TICE?
WE'RE TAKING A BREAK RIGHT NOW.
DO YOU WANT TO SHOOT A FEW HOOPS?
NAH.
I'LL PASS.
HUH!!? OH... AM I NOT ENOUGH OF A CHALLENGE FOR YOU...?
NO.
THEN, ARE YOU WORRIED ABOUT BEING OUT OF PRACTICE ...?
THAT'S NOT IT.
I'M SCARED OF SPRAIN-ING A FINGER, SO NO.
PLEASE DON'T PROUDLY SAY LAME THINGS LIKE THAT.

SEN-PAI...
...YOU'VE REALLY CHANGED SINCE YOU STARTED DRAWING MANGA...
MY RIGHT HAND.
IT'S MY MONEY-MAKER.

YOU WERE SO COOL...
YOU WERE ON THE STARTING LINEUP BACK IN JUNIOR HIGH AND SET THE BAR WAY UP THERE...

HUH!?
HOW SO!?
?
REALLY ?
I THINK I'M A LOT COOLER NOW.

HUH ...?
THAT'S SUPPOSED TO BE COOL ...?
HEH...
I can draw a flash with ink now.

I THOUGHT PLAYING BASKETBALL WITH YOU WOULD BE A NICE CHANGE OF PACE...
TOO BAD.
DID SOME-THING HAP-PEN?
ACTUALLY, WE PLAYED AGAINST THE GIRLS' TEAM THE OTHER DAY AND LOST.
THE BOYS DID?
YES...
THE GIRLS HAD SOMEONE HELPING OUT.
SHE WAS SO HORRIBLE ...
SHE CAME AT US LIKE CRAZY, WITHOUT ANY FEAR OF BREAKING THE RULES. WE WERE ALL TERRIFIED...
HAVE YOU HEARD OF HER?
HER NAME'S YUZUKI SEO.
!!!
HER AGAIN?

A BATTLEFIELD WITH NOWHERE TO RUN

I WAS ALREADY HAVING INSOMNIA, BUT IT'S GOTTEN EVEN WORSE SINCE THEN...
I'M SCARED OF THE COURT!
WELL, YOU ARE PRETTY SENSI-TIVE...

IF YOU WANT TO GET THINGS OFF YOUR CHEST, I'M HERE TO LISTEN.
DON'T BOTTLE IT UP.
SENPAI...

I KNOW.
IF YOU CAN'T SLEEP, THEN WHY DON'T YOU COME OVER TO MY PLACE?
OH!
WILL YOU PLAY VIDEO GAMES WITH ME OR SOMETHING!?
NAH ...

IF YOU'RE GONNA BE UP ANY-WAY...
...CAN I HAVE YOU ERASE STUFF FOR ME?
IT'S A WASTE OTHERWISE.
SENPAI.
IF YOU'RE GOING TO BE NICE, PLEASE BE NICE ALL THE WAY TO THE END.

THANKS.
PI (BEEP)
I JUST HAVE TO ERASE THE PENCIL LINES, RIGHT?
I'LL HELP.
...OH, FINE, WHATEVER.

SEO'S SINGING ...!!!
!!
BIKU (JUMP)

I GUESS I LEFT IT ON...
SORRY, WAKAMATSU.
NEVER MIND WHAT YOU JUST HEARD...
BUCHI (CLICK)

!!?
SUPII (SNOOZE)

THE NEXT DAY
.....
FOR SOME REA-SON...
...WHEN I HEARD HER VOICE, I JUST GOT REALLY TIRED ALL OF A SUDDEN...
GABA (BOW)
I'M SORRY!!
CAN YOU...
...GIVE ME THAT SONG!?
.....
WHAT SHOULD I DO...?
SHOULD I GIVE IT TO HIM SO HE CAN GET SOME SLEEP...?
BUT IT'S SEO'S VOICE. NOT TELLING HIM WOULD BE...
SA (FWIP)
I'LL HELP YOU WITH YOUR MANGA!!
HERE YOU GO.

YEAH...
OH, IT'S A STORY ABOUT THE SIDE CHARACTERS THIS TIME.

DOK! (BADUM) DOK!
ドキドキ
...HAVE HIM... ♡
HE'S ALWAYS CHEERING ME ON.
IT'S OKAY. I...
Hang in there.
HEH!
OH?
I CAN'T STAND YOU!!

I CAN'T WAIT TILL SHE FINDS OUT THE TRUTH.
...SHE SAYS THAT, BUT THE BOY ON THE PHONE IS THE GUY SHE HATES, HUH...?

HUH ...!? FOR REAL ...!?
I WILL DO EVERY-THING IN MY POWER TO PREVENT THAT.

SO, HOW DO YOU GET YOUR HANDS ON THESE RECORDINGS ANYWAY?
WOW!
FROM LORELAI.
WAKA-MATSU.
HERE'S A NEW SONG.
MAYBE... HE CAN ONLY GET THEM BY SOME REALLY SHADY AND DANGEROUS MEANS...?
!!
HERE.
.....I BARTER WITH MY PRIDE FOR THEM...
HER VOICE IS REALLY PRETTY, ISN'T IT, NOZAKI-KUN!!!?
YOU LIKED IT!?
HUH?
M-MAY I...HAVE SEO'S... NEW SONG PLEASE .....?
Y— YEAH...
UGH...

[ISSUE 14]

I WAS SO STRESSED I COULDN'T SLEEP FOR SUCH A LONG TIME...
...BUT LATELY, I'VE BEEN SLEEPING LIKE A BABY THANKS TO THE MUSIC YOU GAVE ME, SENPAI!!

FOR SOME REASON, HE CAN SLEEP WHEN HE LISTENS TO SEO SING...
WHAAAT?
THAT'S AMAZ-ING!!
THEN DOES THAT MEAN THAT YUZUKI'S VOICE IS LIKE HIS MEDICINE?
I GUESS SO.
...

WAAAAH!
SEO'S HERE!
RUN FOR IT!!!
SHE'S AIMING FOR THE FACE!!!

WELL, BUT SHE'S ALSO THE SOURCE OF HIS STRESS.
WAKA-MATSU IS DOWN!
GYAAAH!
GYAAAH!
WAAAH!
BAKOOON (THWACK)

YOU SHOULD ACTUALLY GET ANGRY, YOU KNOW...
WHY DOES SHE ONLY COME TO THE BOYS' BASKETBALL TEAM...?
KIRI (TWINGE)
KIRI
UUU...
I GET THE FEELING THAT SHE'S ONLY COMING AFTER ME NOWADAYS...

WEAK !!!
KI (GLARE)
YES!!!
WHEN OUR EYES MEET, I GLARE AT HER!!

THAT RUINS IT!!!
HELLO!!
BUT JUST GLARING AT HER WOULD BE RUDE, SO I GREET HER TOO!!

THAT JUST MAKES IT LOOK LIKE YOU'RE HAPPY TO SEE HER!!!
HELLO!!!
HELLO!!
EH HEH!
AND NOW, WHEN I SEE HER, I GO RUNNING AT HER!!!

WELL ...
...YOU'RE NOT REALLY THE TYPE TO PICK A FIGHT WITH A GIRL...
KIRI (TWINGE)
KIRI
KIRI
OH NO ...!!
SO EVERYTHING I WAS DOING WAS MEANING-LESS...!!?

MY BOOKS ?
HUH?
WOULD ANY OF THEM HELP IN THIS SITUATION...?
I'M GOING TO DO SOME RESEARCH!!!
SENPAI!!! PLEASE LET ME BORROW SOME OF YOUR BOOKS!!!
SINCE IT'S COME TO THIS...

BOOK: SHOWA ROMANCE / LO—

YES!!!
I UNDER-STAND!!
BI (FWIP)
...BUT MAKE SURE YOU KNOW WHICH PARTS YOU CAN AND CAN'T USE.
YOU LISTEN CAN GO UP. AHEAD AND USE MANGA AS YOUR REFER-ENCE...

Seo-senpai

I'll be waiting for you on the roof after school.
Please be sure to come.
I'll wait a reeeeally long time

ISN'T THAT A LOVE LETTER !!?
I DIDN'T KNOW HOW TO WRITE A LETTER OF CHALLENGE, SO I USED A LETTER CALLING SOMEONE OUT IN A MANGA AS A MODEL.

...SEO-SEN-PAI?
YOU HAD NO IDEA I WAS THE ONE WHO CALLED YOU UP HERE, DID YOU...
HEH...
YEAH...
IT'S A HUGE SHOCK.
YOU HAVE REALLY BUBBLY-WRITING...
Seo-senpai☆

I'VE BEEN MEANING TO TELL YOU SOMETHING FOR A REALLY LONG TIME...
BUT YOU MUST ALREADY KNOW...
...WHAT I WANT TO SAY, DON'T YOU?

WELL... YEAH, I KNOW.
THERE'S ONLY ONE THING YOU'D CALL ME UP HERE TO TELL ME...
BASI-CALLY...

...YOU WANT ME TO START CALLING YOU BY A NICKNAME, DON'T YOU?
GOT IT!
THAT'S NOT IT AT ALL!!!

THAT'S NOT HOW BASKETBALL WORKS!!!
AND YOU'RE THE ONLY ONE WHO'S DOING THE CRASHING!!!
WE'RE ALWAYS HAVING FUN CRASHING INTO EACH OTHER, AREN'T WE?
HUH? OHH.
WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT!!!? I MEAN BASKET-BALL!!!
THE BASKET-BALL TEAM!!

...BUT YOU'RE REALLY CAUSING PROBLEMS FOR US!!! PLEASE DON'T COME AROUND ANYMORE!!!
I DON'T KNOW WHETHER YOU'RE JUST HELPING OUT THE GIRLS' TEAM OR WHAT...

THIS IS BAD...! EVEN THOUGH I'M TALKING TO SEO-SENPAI, I STILL SAID TOO MUCH...!!
AGH!
SHIIIN (SILENCE)
しーん
.....
UH...
UM... I.....

AT LEAST LISTEN TO WHAT I HAVE TO SAY!!!
YOUR NAME'S WAKAMATSU, SO HOW ABOUT I CALL YOU "WAKA"?
THAT'S COOL, RIGHT?

TO BEGIN WITH, WHY IS IT THAT YOU ONLY PICK ON ME!?
ALWAYS ? JUST ME!!
DO I?
YES!!! IT'S ONLY ME YOU HIT WITH THE BALL!
AND FOR SOME REASON, YOU EVEN COME AFTER ME DURING BREAK!
YOU SEND ME ON ERRANDS! YOU MAKE ME GIVE YOU MAS-SAGES!!!
YOU ONLY MAKE ME CARRY YOUR STUFF!!!
AND THEN YOU DRAG ME OFF TO A DINER AND TREAT ME TO DINNER!!
AND YOU BRING SOUVENIRS BACK ONLY FOR ME!!!
WAH!
DOESN'T THAT MEAN SHE LIKES YOU!!?

OH YEAH, MY SHOUJO MANGA RESEARCH ...!!
IT'S NOZAKI-SENPAI ...!!
ACK!
DON'T COMPARE ME TO HER ...!!!
ANOTHER GIRL...
A-KO DOESN'T SAY STUFF LIKE THAT.
YOU REALLY ARE SUCH A PAIN.
!!
I'M PRETTY SURE THE WORDS THAT HURT GIRLS THE MOST WERE...
BORO (DRIP)
THE GLEE CLUB'S LORELAI...
...WOULDN'T DO THAT!!!
YOU'RE HORRIBLE, SENPAI!!!

BEHOLD THE FRUITS OF MY RESEARCH!!

LORELAI ...?
YOU DON'T KNOW ABOUT HER?
SHE HAS THE MOST BEAUTIFUL SINGING VOICE!!

I'VE NEVER MET HER...BUT I CAN TELL JUST FROM LISTENING TO HER EVERY DAY.
ANYONE WHO CAN SING LIKE THAT...

...IS OVER-FLOWING WITH EMPATHY AND WOULDN'T HURT ANYONE.
ONLY A KIND, PURE PERSON WITH A SERENE HEART COULD SING LIKE THAT!!!

I CAN'T SLEEP WITHOUT THAT VOICE ANY-MORE!!!
THAT PURE VOICE THAT GENTLY MELTS AWAY ALL OF MY EXHAUSTION ...!!
SHE'S THE SOOTHING TYPE, UNLIKE YOU!!
She is my god-dess!!!
I can't live without her any-more!!!
...SO IT'S LIKE THIS !!!
UMM... NOT BEING ABLE TO SLEEP IS A MATTER OF LIFE AND DEATH FOR ME...
WAKA ...
YES !!!?
Y—
HAAH!
HFF!
H-HOW DO YOU LIKE THAT!!?
AN ENCORE !!?
SU (JAB)
SAY IT AGAIN.

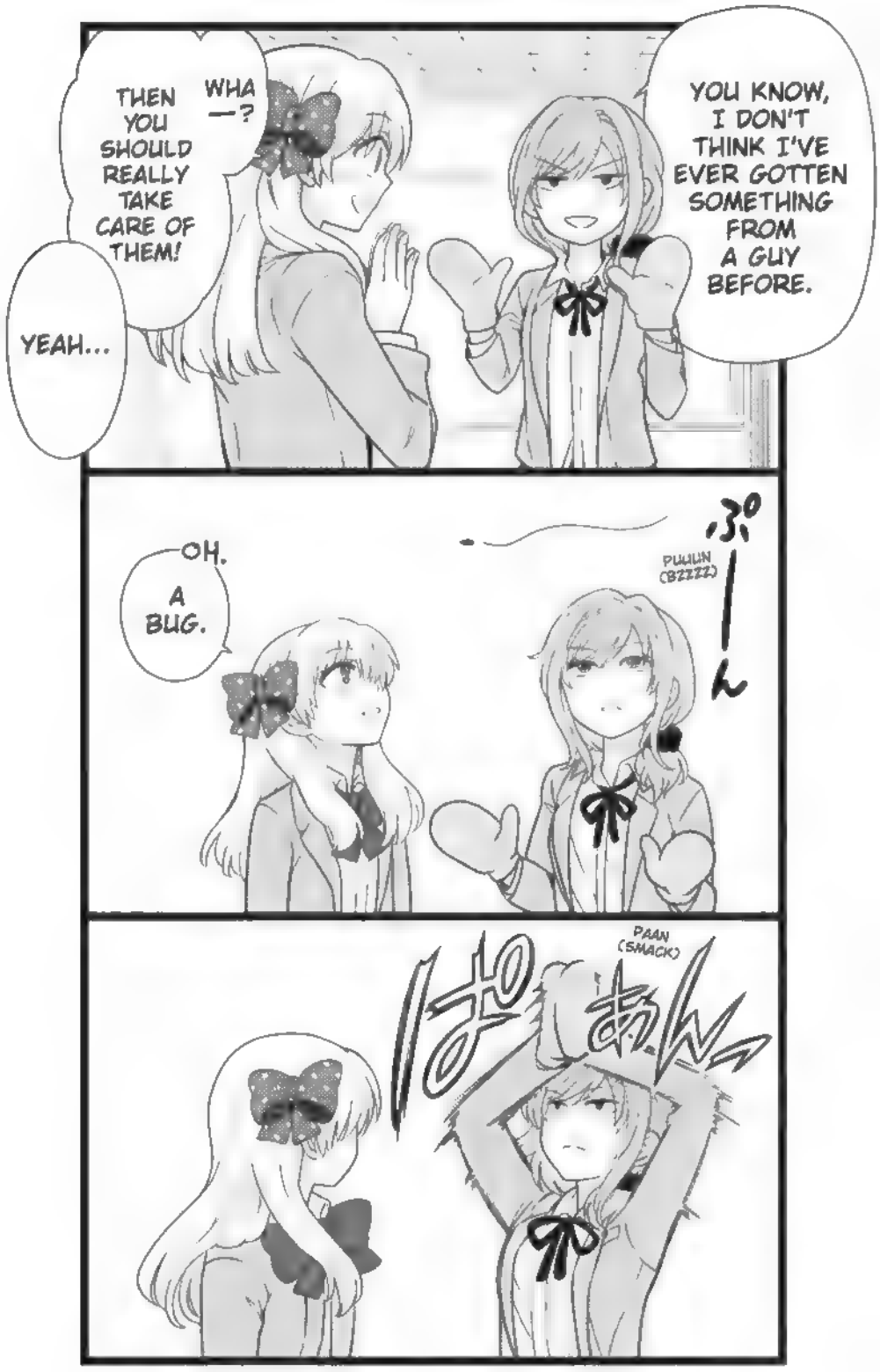
I CAME HERE TO PICK A FIGHT, BUT SHE ISN'T RETALIATING...
WHY...?
THE ONLY COURSE I HAVE LEFT TO ME IS...
GOSO (RUMMAGE)
MITTENS !!!
SU (SHWIP)
YOU'RE GOING TO THROW THEM AT HER!? YOU'RE CHALLENGING HER TO A DUEL NOW!?
IT'S TOO LATE!!!
BA (FWIP)
YOU'RE JUST GIVING THEM TO HER!!?
HERE.
?

YOU PROBABLY SHOULDN'T HAVE READ SHOUJO MANGA...
...SENPAI... WHAT SHOULD I HAVE DONE...?

Y—
YEAH!!!
I TRIED MY BEST!!!
MAYBE.
OH WELL. AT LEAST SHE MUST'VE REALIZED THAT YOU CALLED HER UP HERE TO COMPLAIN.

...HE CALLED ME UP THERE AND SAID A TON OF STUFF...
..... SO...

OHHH!
A SHY BOY!!!
...BUT I GUESS IT WAS ALL TO HIDE HIS EMBAR-RASSMENT OVER GIVING ME A PRESENT.


YOU KNOW, I DON'T THINK I'VE EVER GOTTEN SOMETHING FROM A GUY BEFORE.
WHA—?
THEN YOU SHOULD REALLY TAKE CARE OF THEM!
YEAH...
PUUUN (BZZZZ)
OH. A BUG.
PAAN (SMACK)

[ISSUE 15]

THERE'S SOMETHING I DON'T UNDERSTAND ABOUT HOW MAMIKO'S FEELING, SO PLEASE EXPLAIN IT TO ME.
DRAFT
HELLO.
PHONE CALL, PHONE CALL.
OH!
KEN-SAN!!!

SHE'S ALWAYS CALLING FOR SUZUKI-KUN, ISN'T SHE?
HA HA HA!
SUZUKI-KUN...
AND THIS ONE.
SUZUKI-KUN...
SHE'S CALLING FOR SUZUKI-KUN HERE TOO.
THEN THIS ONE.
UMM.
SHE'S CALLING FOR SUZUKI.
SUZUKI-KUN...
FIRST, HERE.

...BUT IT'S A PROBLEM IF IT'S HARD TO TELL WHAT MAMIKO IS THINKING. DO YOU FOLLOW!?
I UNDER-STAND THAT IT'S DIFFICULT TO EXPLAIN...
.....
YUMENO-SAN.

I'M BLAMING YOU!
PLEASE DON'T BLAME HER FOR THAT.
SHE MIGHT NOT LOOK IT, BUT I'M SURE SHE HAS PLENTY OF THOUGHTS OF HER OWN.

I LOVE...
...YOU.
ABOUT SUZUKI...?
Just think about how you would feel about Suzuki if you were in Mamiko's shoes, Yumeno-san.
DON'T TAKE IT THAT SERIOUSLY.
THOUGH, I APPRECIATE THE SENTIMENT.
HRM...
HE'D BE A GOOD FRIEND, BUT AS A BOYFRIEND, WELL...
LET'S SEE...
I GAVE HIM THE FACE THAT I FIND EASIEST TO DRAW, SO...
Then try thinking about it as if you were a woman.
DO YOU HAVE A PROBLEM WITH SUZUKI?
...I ONLY LIKE HIS FACE.

MAMIKO'S FEELINGS, HUH...?
BEING PRACTICAL ABOUT IT IS GOOD AND ALL, BUT YOU SHOULD TRY IDENTIFYING WITH HER A BIT.

MAMIKO
LET'S SEE...
SO, LIKE, IF I WERE TO GO INTO THE MANGA AS MAMIKO, HOW WOULD I FEEL...?

I CAME TO SAVE YOU.
SUZUKI-KUN...
DOKIN (BADUM)
SUZUKI-KUN LIKES ME!!!
GAAN! (SHOCK)
NO WAY ...
WHAAA——!?
THIS IS ME...!?

THEY NEVER DO ANY STUDYING AT ALL...
ALL THEY DO IS ROMANCE STUFF.

HE'S DOING SOMETHING SILLY AGAIN...
SO CALL ME MAMIKO, 'KAY!?
AND SO, I DECIDED TO BE MAMIKO ALL DAY TODAY.

!!!
HAVE ONE.
I MADE TOO MANY LUNCHES.
KOTSUN (BOP)
FIRST UP, HERE.
DOKI
ドキッ

DOES THAT MEAN THAT I'M PLAYING SUZUKI-KUN ...!!?
MAMIKO'S HANDMADE LUNCH ...!!?
I CAN HAVE THIS ...?
YOU'RE SURE ...?
Y—
DOKI
DOKI
DOKI
ドドドドドド

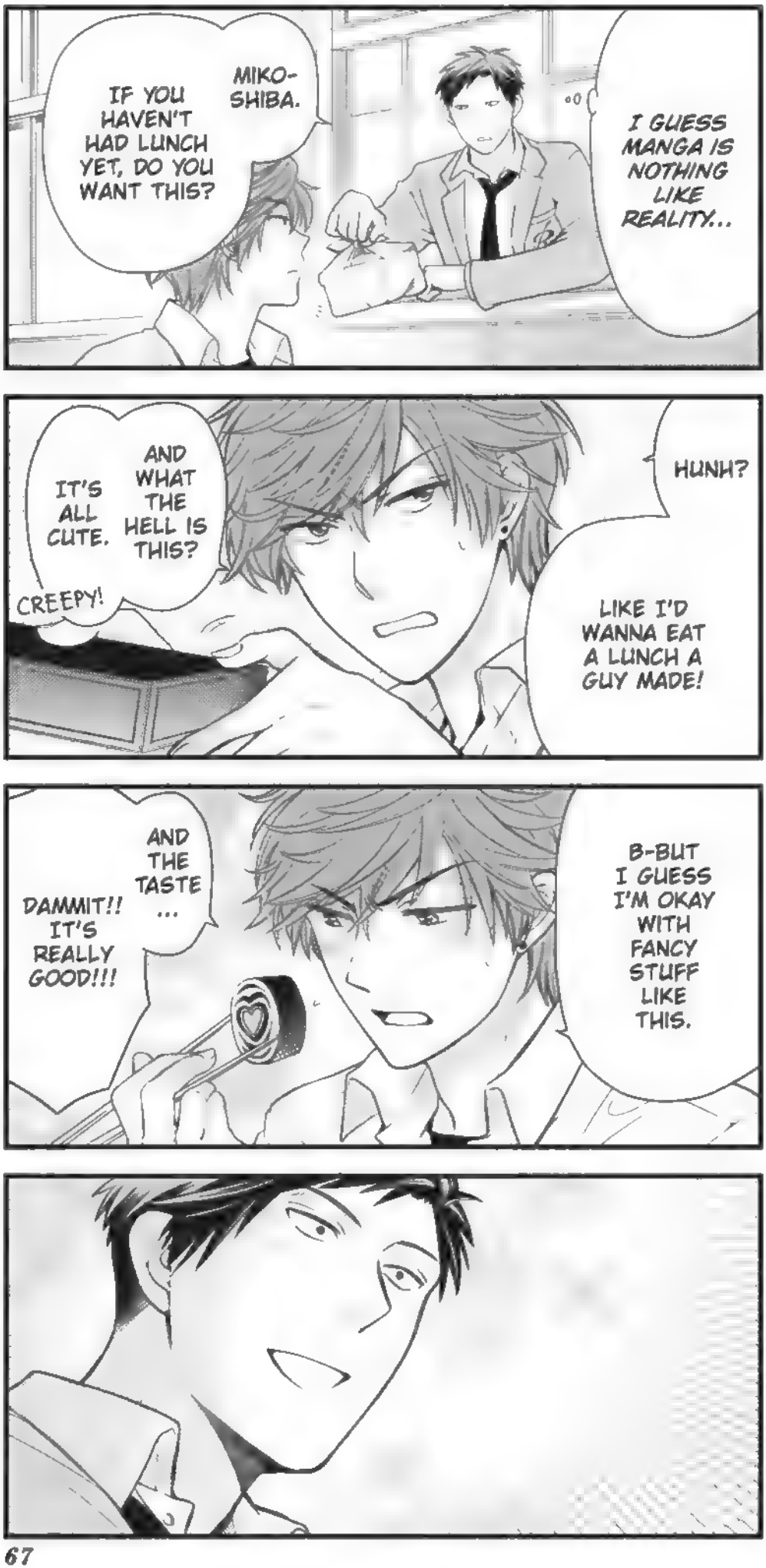
FOR YOU!
MAMIKO'S BECOME A SLUT...!!!
I HAVE FIVE MORE.
IT'S OKAY.
I'M GOING TO GO AROUND AND HAND THEM OUT.
ZURA (SLOTS)
ずらっ

OKAY.
YOU CAN HAVE ONE TOO.
IT'S A SPECIAL OCCASION.
YUZUKI.
...
OHH?
THAT'S ONE TASTY-LOOKING LUNCH.

HEH HEH HEH...
HAVE EVEN MORE!
I SEE. THIS SIGHT FILLS YOU WITH SATISFACTION, DOESN'T IT, MAMIKO ...!!?
THEY LOOK SO HAPPY TO HAVE MY HOME-COOKED LUNCHES...

I HATE FISH FLAKES—
GUCCHA
GUCCHA (SMOOSH)
UU! UGH!
NOZAKI-KUN'S A BETTER COOK THAN ME. I'M LOSING GROUND...

I'M NOT VERY HAPPY RIGHT NOW...
WHAT'S THIS...?


I GUESS MANGA IS NOTHING LIKE REALITY...
MIKO-SHIBA.
IF YOU HAVEN'T HAD LUNCH YET, DO YOU WANT THIS?
HUNH?
LIKE I'D WANNA EAT A LUNCH A GUY MADE!
AND WHAT THE HELL IS THIS?
IT'S ALL CUTE.
CREEPY!
B-BUT I GUESS I'M OKAY WITH FANCY STUFF LIKE THIS.
AND THE TASTE ...
DAMMIT!! IT'S REALLY GOOD!!!

HOW ABOUT THROWING A FEW BASKETS?
OH.
SENPAI.
I'M MAMIKO!
MAMIKO!
THIS MIGHT BE KIND OF INTERESTING IN ITS OWN WAY.

WHAT IN THE WORLD IS HE TALKING ABOUT?
LADIES FIRST, YOU KNOW!
ARE YOU TRYING TO THRUST THE HEROINE INTO THE GUYS' BATTLE-GROUND?

SUZUKI-KUUUN!
THE BENCH, HUH...? COME TO THINK OF IT, MAMIKO DOES TRY TO OUTCHEER HER RIVAL...
...
JI (STARE)
...WOULD YOU SIT HERE ON THE BENCH AND GIVE ME SOME POINTERS?
TH-THEN...

WHAT ARE YOU PLANNING TO DO ON THE BENCH!!?
GRAAAWR!
If you can find a girl to be my rival, sure!!!

HMM.
I GUESS EXPERIENCE BATTLING A GIRL MIGHT BE TOO MUCH TO ASK FOR...
KYAA!
WELL, NOT EVEN OUR TEAM MANAGER IS A GIRL, SO...

.....
NOW, NOW.
DON'T FIGHT.
KYA!
YOU'RE COMING WITH ME, AREN'T YOU, KASHIMA-KUN?
COME ON! KASHIMA-KUN'S GOING HOME WITH ME!
KYA!

GARA (RATTLE)
NAH...
I'M ACTUALLY LOOKING FOR KASHIMA MYSELF ...
GARA
HMM?
GARA
HORI-SENPAI.
HAVE YOU SEEN NOZAKI-KUN?

WHAT IN THE WORLD ARE THOSE TWO DOING?
GARA
GARA
GARA
GARA

MAMIKO THE INVINCIBLE
YOU BETTER TURN TAIL AND GET OUTTA HERE!
SO MAMIKO IS ALWAYS FIGHTING AGAINST THIS?
GOKURI (GULP)
AMAZING... THIS IS WHAT GIRLS ARE LIKE WHEN THEY TURN AGAINST YOU...

...WHY DON'T I FEEL MORE OF A SENSE OF ACCOMPLISHMENT, I WONDER...?
BUT NOW THAT WE'VE FINALLY GOTTEN AWAY FROM THEM...
GARA
GARA
GARA
GARA (RATTLE)

SO MAMIKO'S ABLE TO WORK SO HARD BECAUSE IT'S ALL FOR HER SPECIAL SOMEONE ...!!!
I GET IT...!!!
URK!
IS IT BECAUSE IT'S NOT SUZUKI-KUN...!?

WHY IS IT LIKE I'M BEING DUMPED!!?
FORGIVE ME...
I JUST CAN'T SEE YOU AS MY SPECIAL SOMEONE...

WHY WAS HE PUSHING YOU AROUND ON THIS THING IN THE FIRST PLACE?
SOMETHING ABOUT HIM NOT WANTING TO HURT HIS ARMS WITH HOW HEAVY I AM...
NOZAKI WAS JUST TOYING WITH ME.....
SO MEAN...
BOO-HOO!

EVEN I CAN PICK YOU UP.
REALLY?
ひょい

SHIT...
SHE'S TECHNICALLY A GIRL, SO DOING THIS IS KINDA...
!!
ACK!
.....

IT'S NOT A COM-PETI-TION!!!
DOKA (THWACK)
GABA (WHOOSH)
I CAN DO THAT TOO, YOU KNOW!!!

OH, I WAS.
I WANTED TO RETURN THIS.
SO, YOU WERE LOOKING FOR ME?
TEE HEE HEE!
...SO I MADE IT MY BACK-GROUND.
IT WAS SO PRETTY THAT I DIDN'T WANT TO RUIN IT...
IT WAS REALLY GOOD. THANK YOU!
OH, BUT I REALLY DID EAT IT ALL!!!
I CAN MAKE YOU ANOTHER LUNCH TOMORROW.
.....
SHOULD I KEEP GOING WITH THE TRYING TO BECOME MAMIKO THING?
I THINK I'M GOOD!!!
BA (FWISH)
ばっ!

WE'VE COME TO AN UNDERSTANDING

THEN WHY DON'T YOU PUT THAT LESSON TO USE AND DECIDE WHAT DIRECTION THE STORY IS GOING TO MOVE IN?
AT LEAST THINKING ABOUT HIS MAIN CHARACTER'S FEELINGS IS PROGRESS...
OH WELL...

*EVERYTHING NOZAKI IS DOING IN THE THIRD PANEL IS TYPICAL "GIRL IN LOVE" STUFF. THE OCTOPUS-SHAPED SAUSAGES ARE STANDARD FOR HANDMADE LUNCHES. KOKKURI-SAN IS A GAME USED TO ASK ABOUT WHAT THE FUTURE HOLDS, SIMILAR TO A OUIJA BOARD. AND THE DRAWING IS OF A "LOVE-LOVE UMBRELLA" (AI-AIGASA), THE JAPANESE VERSION OF A HEART CARVED INTO A TREE WITH TWO LOVERS' NAMES.

SO, BASICALLY, IT'S LIKE THIS?
I'M MAMIKO! A HIGH SCHOOL FIRST-YEAR!
I GUESS MY BIGGEST WORRY'S BEEN NOT DOING TOO GREAT IN SCHOOL LATELY.
BUT WHEN THAT HAPPENED, I FOUND THIS STUDY AID!
NOTICEABLY BETTER IN JUST 30 MINUTES A DAY!!
JUST THIRTY MINUTES A DAY!?
IT COVERS ALL THE IMPORTANT PARTS, SO MY GRADES WENT SHOOTING UP!!
AND THEN ...
Smart girls are just wonderful.
DOKI (BADUM)
MY LOVE LEVELED UP TOO ...!?
100
100

[ISSUE 16]

ADVICE, HANDSOME GUY STYLE

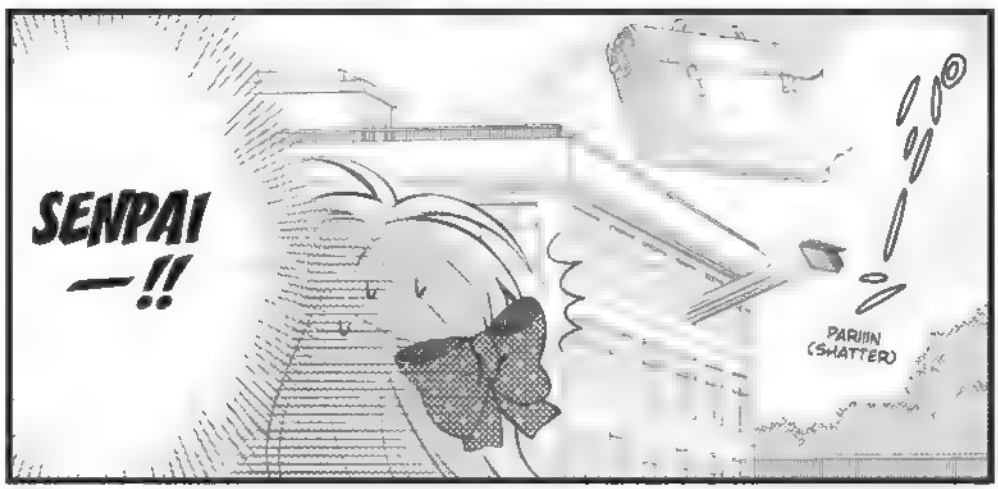
UMM... HE DOESN'T PAY AS MUCH ATTENTION TO ME AS HE USED TO.
YEAH, YEAH.
HE LEAVES AS SOON AS REHEARSAL IS OVER.
OHH.
AND HE RARELY ANSWERS WHEN I CALL HIM...

THAT MEANS YOU AREN'T TRYING HARD ENOUGH.
YOU HAVE TO PUSH IT. PUSH IT HARDER!!
IF IT LOOKS LIKE HE'S GONNA GO SOMEWHERE, HOLD HIM BACK WITH EVERYTHING YOU GOT!!

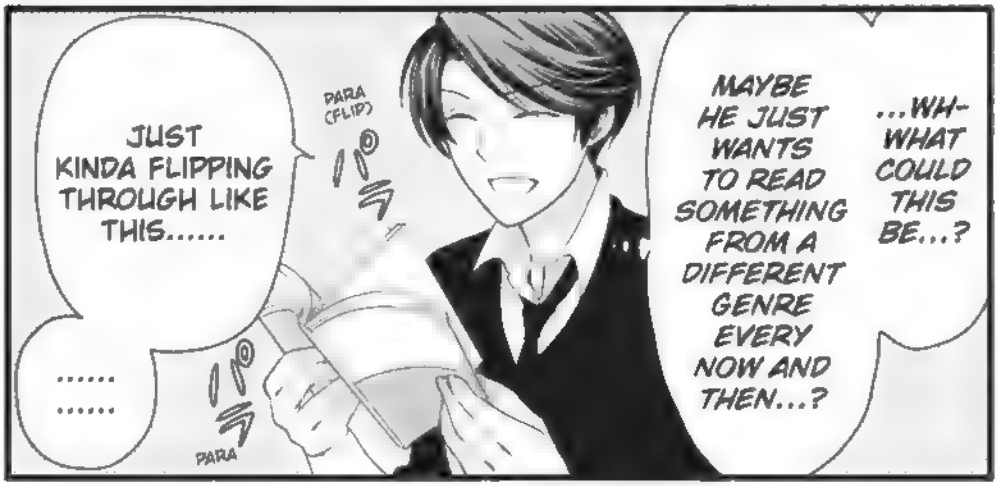
HUH? YOU CARRY NOZAKI-KUN'S MANGA AROUND WITH YOU, SENPAI?
YEAH. I USE IT WHEN I'M DRAWING BACK-GROUNDS.
AS A REFER-ENCE.

WON'T THAT BE A PROBLEM IF YOU LOSE YOUR BAG?
IT'LL RUIN YOUR IMAGE.
I PRETTY MUCH NEVER LET GO OF MY BAG, SO I'M SURE IT'LL BE FINE.

HORI-CHAN !!!
KASHIMA-KUN'S AT IT AGAIN !!!
SHE'S MAKING A RUN FOR IT!!!
GA (SWING)
ブン!!

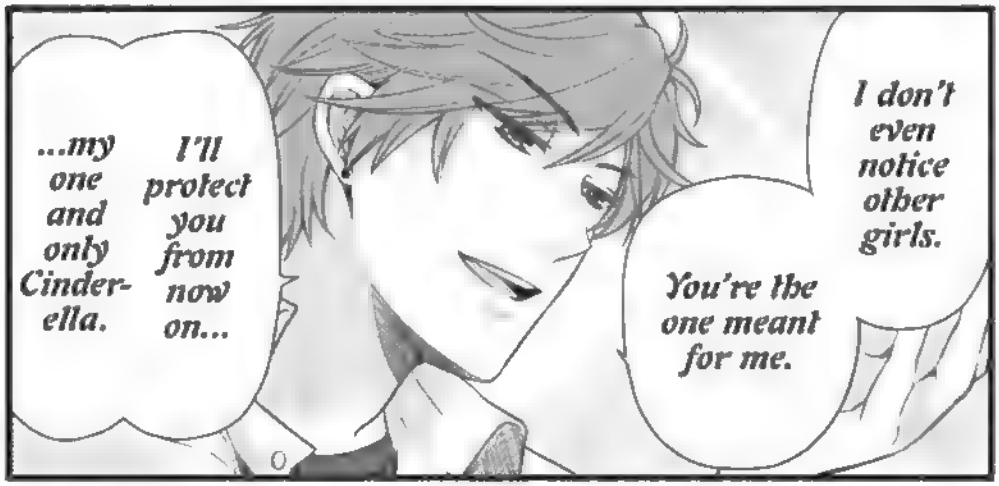

SENPAI —!!
PARIIIN (SHATTER)

BOOK: LET'S FALL IN LOVE♡ / SAKIKO YUMENO


JUST KINDA FLIPPING THROUGH LIKE THIS.....
PARA (FLIP)
.....
.....
PARA
MAYBE HE JUST WANTS TO READ SOMETHING FROM A DIFFERENT GENRE EVERY NOW AND THEN...?
...WH-WHAT COULD THIS BE...?

OH!
SHOUJO MANGA, HUH...?
I ENDED UP BUYING MY OWN COPY IN SPITE OF MYSELF.
HUH!? YOU KNOW ABOUT IT!!?
HEY, IT'S LET'S FALL IN LOVE♡.
COULD THIS HAVE BECOME THE HIGH SCHOOL BOYS' BIBLE!!?
I HAVE ONE TOO, Y'KNOW.
TO THE POINT WHERE HE HAS IT MEMO-RIZED!!?
THEY MEAN "CERTAIN HAPPINESS" IN THE LANGUAGE OF FLOWERS ...!!
BY THE WAY, THE FLOWERS IN THE UPPER RIGHT ON PAGE 132 ARE MARSH MARI-GOLDS.

WHAT KIND OF STORY IS IT ...?
HMM.
AN ORDINARY GIRL FALLS FOR A POPULAR GUY...
...AND SHE SUCCEEDS JUST THROUGH HER WILL-POWER.
AND THE HERO SAYS STUFF TO HER LIKE...


I don't even notice other girls.
You're the one meant for me.
I'll protect you from now on...
...my one and only Cinder-ella.

YOU'RE TREMBLING. ARE YOU NERVOUS?
YOU'RE SO ADORABLE WHEN YOU TRY TO ACT STRONG... ♡
...MY BAM-BINO.

HA HA HA.
WHAT A WIMPY HERO.

NOOOOO!!!
YOU'RE SUPPOSED TO IDENTIFY WITH THE MAIN CHARACTER WHEN YOU READ IT!!!
AGH!
DON'T FIGHT BACK!!!
THEN SENPAI'S DOING THAT TOO ...!?
I WAS WORRIED ABOUT YOU.
DOKIN (BADUM)
HE'S SO COOL ...!!!
SUZUKI-KUN...!!!
...THEN THAT MEANS SHE LIKES HIM?
YEAH.
HE'S HANDSOME, SMART ...
...GOOD AT SPORTS, AND KIND, SO OF COURSE.
YEAH... MAKES SENSE...
THEN WHY DOESN'T SENPAI LIKE ME MORE!?
I JUST DON'T GET IT!!!
ISN'T THIS THE PROBLEM RIGHT HERE?

IRRATIONAL

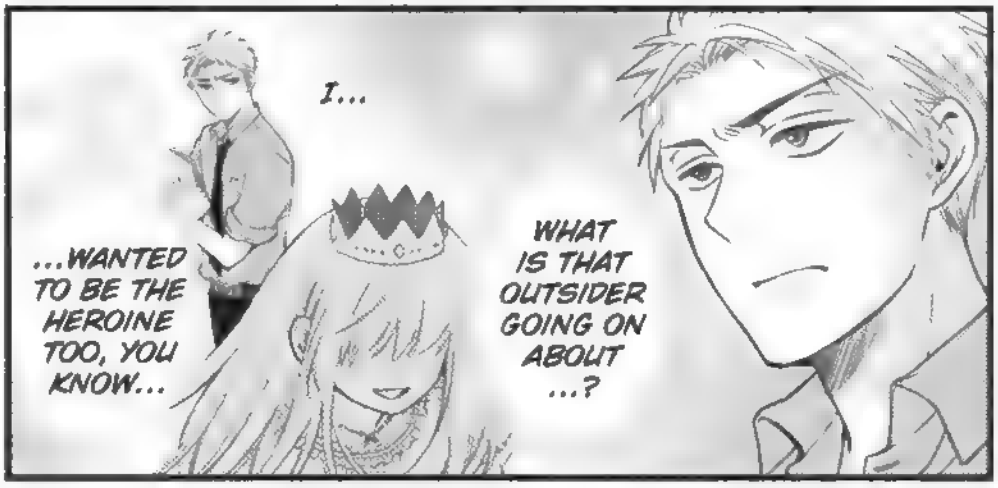
OH!
NO-ZAKI!!
BUT WHAT REALLY GOES THROUGH A GUY'S HEAD WHEN THEY READ IT?
THIS BOOK.
WHAT DID YOU THINK WHEN YOU READ IT?
YOU FAMILIAR WITH THIS?
YEAH.
WHAT I THOUGHT WHEN I READ IT?
...FOR THIS FORE-SHADOWING YET...
I HAVEN'T DONE THE PAYOFF...
OH NO!!! I FORGOT THE TONE THERE ...!!!
HEH HEH HEH...
THIS SCENE TURNED OUT PRETTY GOOD...
.....
SUCH COMPLEX FEELINGS ...!!?
IT MAKES ME CRINGE TO LOOK AT IT, BUT ULTIMATELY I CAN'T DENY MY LOVE.
EVEN AS I'M BEING CRUSHED BY EMBARRASS-MENT AND REGRET, I SOMETIMES FEEL A SENSE OF HOW MUCH I'VE GROWN.

EXCITING AND NERVE-RACKING, IN A WAY

AND I GUESS YOU'RE SUPPOSED TO WANNA BE THE HEROINE...?
COULD YOU GO OVER MY LINES WITH ME? PRESIDENT.
OH. SURE.
I JUST CAN'T SEE THAT... NAH.
THERE. HE'S READING A GIRL PART, AND HE'S NOT ACTING ANY DIFFERENT...
...
"OH, WHAT A WONDERFUL PERSON YOU ARE...WHAT IS YOUR NAME...?"
"PLEASE DO COME AGAIN."
"I WILL HOLD THIS MEETING CLOSE TO MY HEART.
I CAN'T BELIEVE KASHIMA IS FINALLY PUTTING IN A BIT OF EFFORT...
HE LOOKS REALLY HAPPY ...!!!

KYAAA♡
KA-SHIMA-KUUUN!♡
WHO ARE YOU PLAYING TODAY?
I...
...WANT TO BE THE PRINCESS!

HEY.
NO OUTSIDERS ALLOWED.
YIKES!


I...
...WANTED TO BE THE HEROINE TOO, YOU KNOW...
WHAT IS THAT OUTSIDER GOING ON ABOUT ...?

ARE YOU MOCKING ME!?
YOU BAS-TARD!
POOR GUY...
THE PRESIDENT'S GETTING JEALOUS, SO YOU SHOULD PROBABLY GO...

KACHA (RATTLE)
KACHA
...
SEN-PAI...
AND HERE I THOUGHT YOU WERE FINALLY STARTING TO PUT SOME EFFORT INTO IT...

...SKIRT DO YOU PREFER? THE LONG ONE OR THE MINI?
... WHICH ...

...THE UNIFORM SKIRT'S JUST FINE, ISN'T IT...?
...EVEN IF YOU CAN'T WEAR ONE ON-STAGE...
MAYBE SINCE SHE'S TECHNICALLY A GIRL, SHE'S WORRIED ABOUT ALWAYS PLAYING MALE ROLES...?

WHAT THE HELL IS HER DAMAGE !!!?
SAY IT OUT LOUD!!!
YOU CAN WEAR MY SKIRT INSTEAD.
KASHIMA-KUN LEFT WITH YOUR PANTS ON!!!
HORI-CHAN !!!

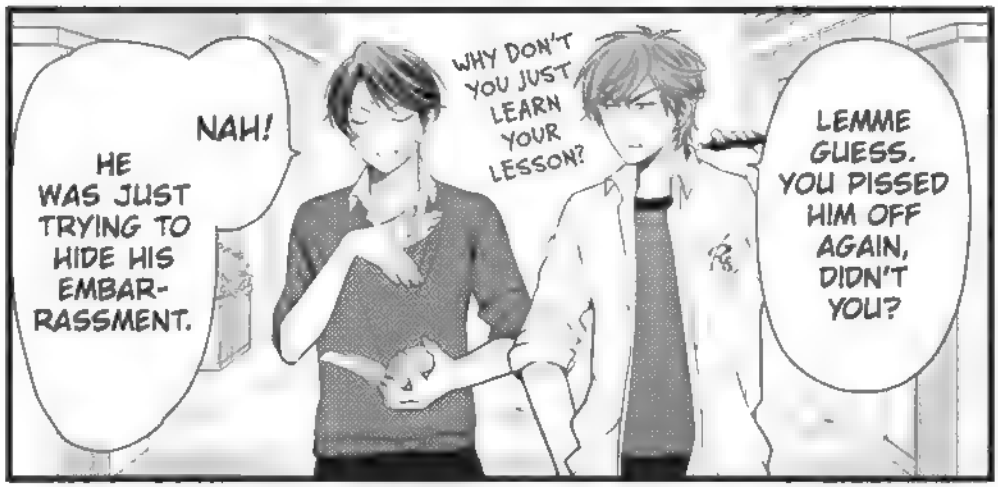
ANYBODY HAVE ANYTHING TO SAY?
YES!!!
Prince...Kashima
Princess...Sanda
...Sakamaki
...Taka
NOW ...
...AFTER THIS LAST READ-THROUGH, I'VE DECIDED ON THE ROLES FOR OUR NEXT PRODUC-TION...

OVER THE PAST COUPLE OF DAYS, I'VE REALIZED WHAT IT IS SENPAI WANTS...
...
YOU NOT HAPPY AS THE PRINCE?
WH—
WHAT IS IT, KASHIMA?

...FOR THE ROLE OF THE PRINCESS!!!
I NOMINATE HORI-SENPAI...
AND I'LL MAKE THAT WISH COME TRUE FOR YOU!!!

DOGO
WHAM
FUCK!!!

...YOU LOOK EVEN WORSE THAN USUAL TODAY...
FOR REAL?
WELL, IT TURNS OUT CHALK-BOARDS CAN FLY PRETTY FAR.
IT REALLY SURPRISED ME.


LEMME GUESS. YOU PISSED HIM OFF AGAIN, DIDN'T YOU?
WHY DON'T YOU JUST LEARN YOUR LESSON?
NAH! HE WAS JUST TRYING TO HIDE HIS EMBAR-RASSMENT.

I KNOW THAT I...
...AM THE ONLY ONE WHO KNOWS HOW SENPAI REALLY FEELS...!!!

I THINK KASHIMA HATES ME...
SHE'S BEEN PULLING SOME REALLY NASTY PRANKS...
WHAT EXACTLY DID YOU DO, KASHIMA-KUN...!!!?

THAT LITTLE ...!!!
IRA (IRIK)
イラッ
I thought this would look good on you, senpai! Here you go! Kashima
Have some accessories too!
And shoes.
Here's a skirt today.
WHY ARE YOU STARTING TO THINK A LITTLE BETTER OF HER, SENPAI?
SHE'S PRETTY AMAZING, ISN'T SHE?
PERFECTLY COORDI-NATED
LOOKING AT IT ALL PUT TOGETHER, YOU KNOW, SHE HAS REALLY GOOD TASTE.

[ISSUE 17]

I FORGOT MY UMBRELLA...
WHAT SHOULD I DO...?
IT WAS SUPPOSED TO START RAINING THIS AFTERNOON...
OH NO.
DOKI (BADUM)
N—
NOZAKI-KUN!!!
YOU DON'T HAVE AN UMBRELLA?
OH?
SAKURA?
THERE'S PROBABLY ONLY ONE LOSER IN THE ENTIRE SCHOOL WHO FORGOT THEIR UMBRELLA.
GEEZ, IT'S SOOO EMBARRASSING! THERE WAS A HUNDRED PERCENT CHANCE OF PRECIPITATION TODAY!
AHAHAHAHAHA!
ACTUALLY, I JUST TOTALLY FORGOT ABOUT IT.
Y-YEAH.
I'M SUCH AN IDIOT!!!
GU (CLENCH)
I forgot mine too, so there are two losers!!!

YOU KNOW, IN TIMES LIKE THIS...
...SOME PEOPLE USE THEIR UNIFORM JACKET INSTEAD OF AN UMBREL-LA.
YOU WANT TO COME IN?
OH!
YEAH, IT'S REALLY COOL!

WAAAH!
BUT I FEEL LIKE YOU CAN'T COVER YOUR BAG IF YOU DO THAT.
I'VE BEEN THINKING OF A NEW WAY TO DO IT WITH THAT IN MIND...
GUCCHORI (SPLASH)

WHAT DO YOU THINK?
IT'S REALLY LAME!!!

YOU WANNA COME IN?
WH-WHERE!!?

BA (WHOOSH)
OKAY, LET'S GO!
O—
OKAY !!!

WAAAH!

WAAAH!

IF YOU THINK ABOUT IT LOGICALLY, THIS ISN'T THE SORT OF RAIN THAT A SINGLE PIECE OF CLOTH COULD DO MUCH ABOUT...
GUSSHORI (SOAKED)
IT ABSORBED EVEN MORE THAN I THOUGHT.
BOTA
BOTA (DRIP)

HUH?
...REMIND YOU OF A MANGA?
BUT STILL, DOESN'T RAIN... A SITU- ATION LIKE THIS...

DOKI (BADUM)
ドッキ
!!
AN EMPTY BUILDING.
RAIN.
SCHOOL.

AND AFTER THAT...
ドキ
DOKI
SUDDENLY GROWING CLOSER BECAUSE OF THEIR CONVERSA- TION...
OR SOME- THING LIKE THAT...
ドキ
DOKI
S—
TWO PEOPLE TRAPPED INSIDE BY THE RAIN...

A GHOST STORY !!?
...NO ONE EVER SAW THE TWO OF THEM AGAIN...

FOR EXAMPLE

A RAINY SEASON STORY?
AND I CAN USE A RAINY SEASON STORY IN JUNE.
LET'S SEE!
IDEAS
GOT NOTHING BETTER TO DO. MIGHT AS WELL THINK OF AN IDEA FOR A STORY.

IT WOULD LOOK ALMOST LIKE A FIELD OF FLOWERS HAD BLOOMED...
A RAINBOW OF UMBRELLAS WOULD GO UP AROUND HIM.
IF SUZUKI WAS TO FORGET HIS UMBRELLA ON A DAY LIKE THIS, I'M SURE THE GIRLS WOULDN'T SIT BACK.
HMM...
I FORGOT IT.

IT'S A TROOP OF MUSHROOMS...
IT'S A TROOP OF MUSHROOMS...
...
KYAAA~ KYAAA~
COME UNDER MINE!
NO, MINE!!!

A WILD WAY TO OFFER IT

...YOU CAN COME UNDER MINE.
IF YOU'D LIKE...
LIKE THAT?
SHOULDN'T YOU GO THE TRADITIONAL ROUTE?
THEN I GUESS I'LL TRY TO COME UP WITH A COOL WAY TO GIVE SOMEONE AN UMBRELLA.

NO... DON'T LET HER FOOL YOU...!!! SHE JUST DIDN'T THINK ABOUT IT AT ALL ...!!!
BUT I'LL MAKE A NOTE OF IT ANY-WAY...
HA HA HA HA HA!
BRRR, IT'S COLD!!
YUZUKI !?
HUH!? HEY!

COME WITH, NOZAKI-KUN.
WELL, I MIGHT AS WELL USE IT.
WE'RE SHARING AN UM-BRELLA ...!!?
COULD IT BE?
...WAIT A MINUTE ...!!!
ACK!
...MIGHT THINK WE'RE A COUPLE ...!!!
KYAAAAA!
WHAT SHOULD I DO...?
EVERYONE AROUND US...
BIKU
MOGO
MOGO (SQUIRM)
BIKU (SHOCK)
IT'S STUCK ON HIM ...!?
IT'S STUCK ON HIM ...!?

COME TO THINK OF IT, I'VE SEEN THIS SITUATION BEFORE...
SORRY ...
...FOR MAKING YOU HOLD IT.
○○-KUN...IS TIPPING THE UMBRELLA TOWARD ME...?
EVEN THOUGH HIS SHOULDER IS GETTING WET...?
FUWA (FLOAT)
ふわ
HUH?
DABA (BLOOSHU)
だばだばだばだば
DABA
DABA
PLEASE JUST HOLD IT STRAIGHT !!!
BOTA (DRIP)
ぼたぼたぼたぼた
BOTA
BOTA
NOZAKI-KUN!

THE STREET SIDE IS DANGEROUS.
OH! THANK YOU!!!
YEAH... "No matter what happens...I'll do everything in my power to protect you from the rain ...!!!"
THE KEY LINE IS—
YEAH...THIS IS PRETTY GOOD TOO, ISN'T IT?
ばしゃーん
BASSHAAAN (SPLAAASH)
BUOOOOO (VROOM)
ブオォー
BOTA ぼた
BOTA ぼた
BOTA ぼた
BOTA (DRIP) ぽた
.....I'M PRETTY SURE THERE WAS NOTHING I COULD HAVE DONE ABOUT THAT...

IT GETS SADDER THE CLOSER WE GET

YOU KNOW, YOUR UNIFORM GOT WET TOO...
NICE AND WARM!
WAH!
SORRY. THANKS FOR LETTING ME DROP IN.

TAKE IT OFF? BUT I DON'T HAVE A CHANGE OF CLOTHES! THAT'S JUST...!!
T— T- T- T—
KA CPLUSH
MAYBE YOU SHOULD TAKE IT OFF.

I'M NOT DOING THAT !!!
GIVE IT UP!!!
BY THE WAY, THIS IS THE POSE FOR THE NEXT FRONTIS-PIECE...

THE MOMENT THAT STOLE HIS HEART

BIKU (SHOCK)
MOKO (BULGE)
MOKO
MOKO
GU! (CLENCH)
...
WHAT'S THAT?
WHOA!
GUH!
DOSU (STAB)
STOP BLOCKING THE SIDEWALK!!!
WHAT THE HELL DO YOU THINK YOU'RE DOING!!?
HOW DID HE KNOW WHERE KASHIMA WAS IN ALL OF THAT MESS...?
Y—
YEAH.
ZURU (DRAG)
ZURU
RIGHT. WHERE WERE WE?
WE WERE TALKING ABOUT THE QUIZ TOMORROW, RIGHT?

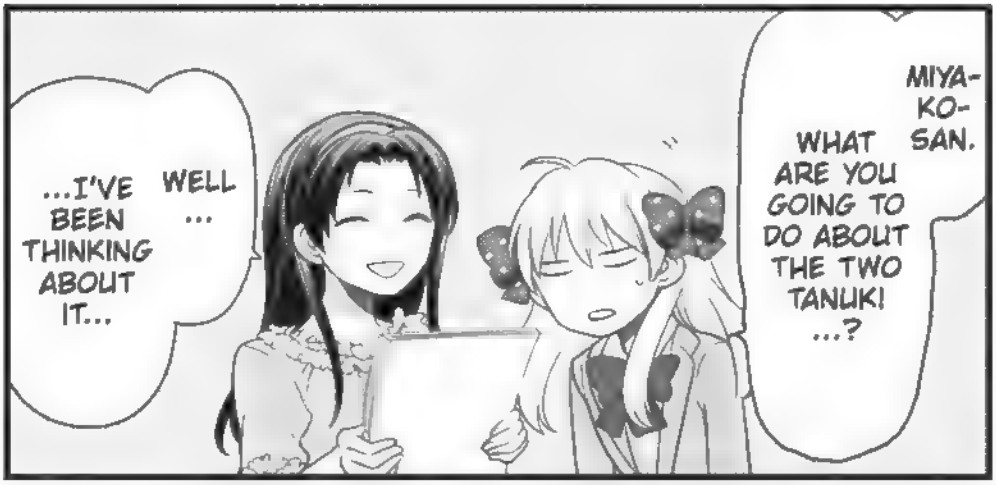
[ISSUE 18]

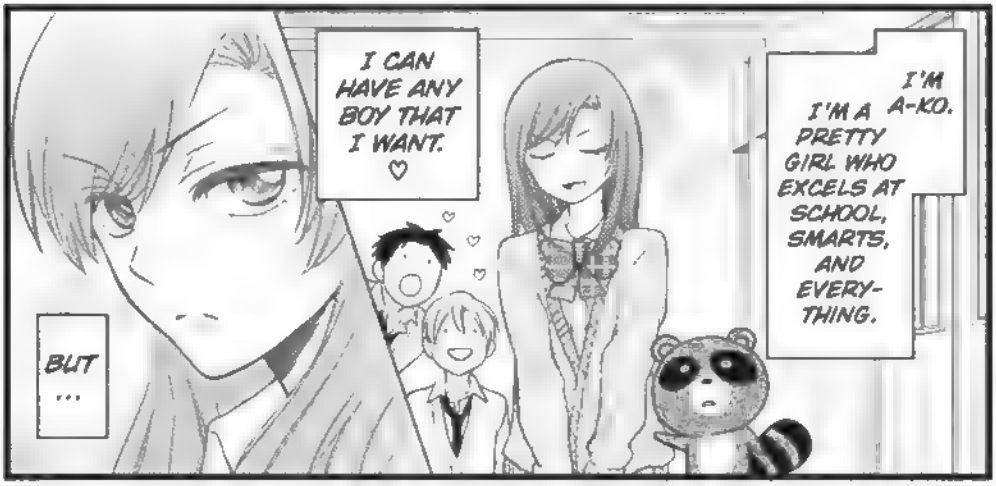
THE BETA I PAINTED IS IN THERE!
YEAH, IT IS.
I'D BEEN KIND OF NUMBED TO IT LATELY, BUT HAVING YOUR MANGA RUN IN A MAGAZINE IS REALLY AMAZING, ISN'T IT?

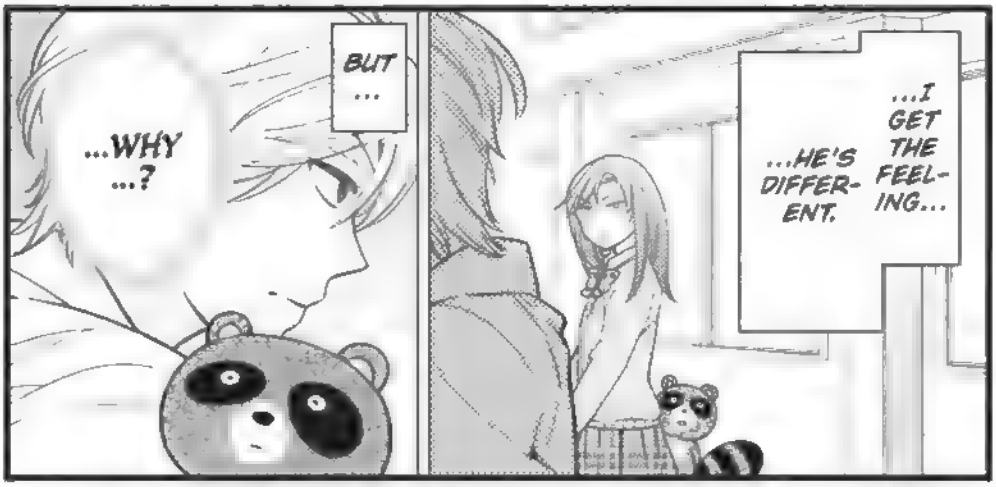
HUH?
WHERE ARE YOU GOING?
I'M GONNA GO CHECK SOMETHING.
GACHA (KACHAK)
I GUESS ONCE YOU GET USED TO IT, YOU LOSE YOUR ORIGINAL FEELINGS.

HUH!? UM, MAENO-SAN!!?
PUTTING IN ANOTHER TANUKI WOULD BE A BIT...
HUH? A GIRL!?
AS A BOY-GIRL COUPLE !!?

GU (CLENCH)
I'm incredibly blessed right now ...!!!


MIYA-KO-SAN.
WHAT ARE YOU GOING TO DO ABOUT THE TWO TANUKI ...?
WELL ...
...I'VE BEEN THINKING ABOUT IT...


I'M A-KO.
I'M A PRETTY GIRL WHO EXCELS AT SCHOOL, SMARTS, AND EVERY-THING.
I CAN HAVE ANY BOY THAT I WANT. ♡
BUT ...


...I GET THE FEEL-ING...
...HE'S DIFFER-ENT.
BUT ...
...WHY ...?

...HE HAS A TANUKI...?
ISN'T IT BECAUSE...

HUH?
WHO DO YOU THINK YOU ARE?
SO BE A GOOD BOY AND COME.
I'M ASKING YOU IF YOU WANT TO HAVE LUNCH WITH ME.

(GAAAN (SHOCK)
I HAVE A GIRL-FRIEND.
WHY CAN'T I JUST BE HONEST WITH HIM ...!?

NEXT TIME FOR SURE... I'LL BE HAPPY ...!!!

...UPSTAGED HER...!!!
THOSE DAMNED MASCOTS ...

I TRIED TO ALLEVIATE SOME OF THE BAD TASTE THE ENDING LEFT BEHIND...
YEAH, BUT...
...JUST THE TANUKI HAVING SUCCESS IS A BIT...
AT LEAST MAKE IT FAIR...
YOU THINK?

THEN HOW ABOUT SOME-THING LIKE THIS?
I'M LATE, LATE!
GO... (THUNK)
KYA!
WE SWITCHED ...
...BODIES !!!

OHHH? SO THIS IS WHAT A SKIRT'S LIKE!!!
IT FANS OUT!
OH, WOW!
KYA!
KYA!
IT'S SOOOO LIGHT WITHOUT ANY BREASTS!
KYA!

WHAT DO WE DO ...?
WHY DO THE TANUKI SEEM SO MUCH MORE SERIOUS!?
THEY DON'T EVEN LOOK ANY DIFFERENT!!!

I-I DO FIGHT WHEN I HAVE TO, YOU KNOW!!
ARE YOU ALL RIGHT?
MIYAKO-SAN, YOU'RE REALLY ACCEPTING, AREN'T YOU...?
HUH!!?
LET'S MAKE IT "TANU☆PON."
...THIS TITLE, "HOLD ME TIGHT," IS KINDA BORING.
YOU KNOW ...
WHY, JUST RECENT-LY...
...AND DID YOU WIN?
YES!
I WORKED REALLY HARD!!
...THAT'S WHAT HE SAID, BUT I STROVE TO LET HIM KNOW HOW I FELT!!
YOU TOTALLY LOST!!!
たぬ☆ぽん
～ぎゅっと抱きしめて～
TANU☆PON
~HOLD ME TIGHT~
I GOT IT IN AS THE SUBTITLE !!

YOU NEVER HAD ANYTHING LIKE THAT HAPPEN TO YOU, DID YOU, NOZAKI-KUN?
NO...
IT HAP-PENED TO ME TOO.
WHEN I WAS STARTING OUT.
HUH!?

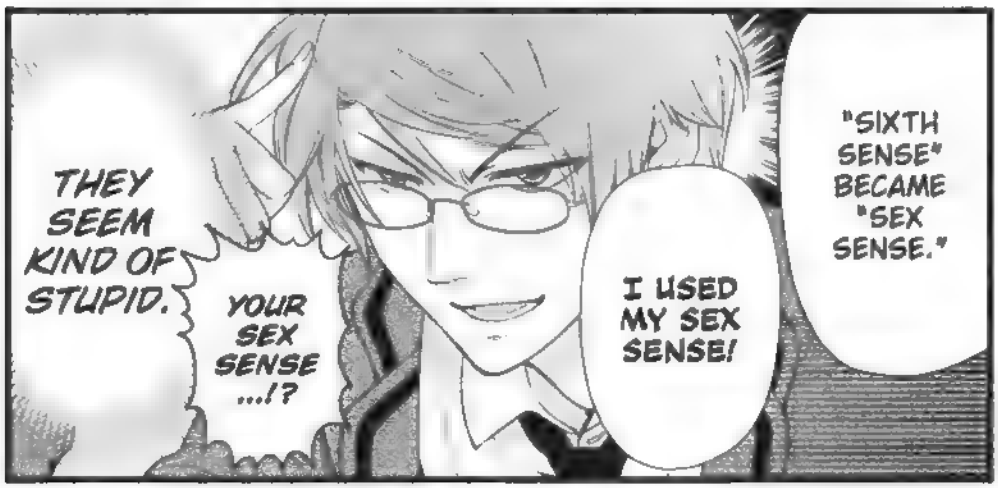
THE NEXT TITLE SHOULD BE "WAVERING SENTIMENTS."
PLEASE.
OKAY!
WAVERING SENTIMENTS, RIGHT!?

LET'S MAKE "WAVERING" CUTER AND CHANGE IT TO "WAVY WAVY"!
AND THEN "SEN"...
HMM? WHAT WAS IT?
WHAT WAS THAT WORD AGAIN?

AND THIS IS WHAT MADE IT INTO THE MAGAZINE.
ゆる♡ゆる
近藤
SUNFLOWER
CAN YOU HEAR MY VOICE?
私の声、きこえてる?
THERE'S NOT A BIT OF IT LEFT!!!

THAT TECHNI-CALLY MAY HAVE BEEN A MISPRINT ...
OH!
MISPRINTS HAPPEN ALL THE TIME!
Y—
YOU TOO, MIYAKO-SAN!?
IN MY CASE...

...“PRIDE” TURNED INTO “PRIVATES.”
YES...
FU FU!
IT REALLY IS ALL ABOUT YOUR PRIVATES, ISN’T IT ...?
WHAT ARE YOU MAKING THAT GIRL SAY?


“SIXTH SENSE” BECAME “SEX SENSE.”
I USED MY SEX SENSE!
YOUR SEX SENSE ...!?
THEY SEEM KIND OF STUPID.

AND THEN THE WORD “SITUATION” IN A TITLE BECAME “AFFAIR”...
大塚くんの情事
OOTSUKA-KUN'S AFFAIR
OOTSUKA-KUN HAS A SECRET HE CAN'T TELL ANYONE...!
WHY ARE THEY ALL SO DIRTY !!!?

I WON'T MAKE ANY EXCUSES

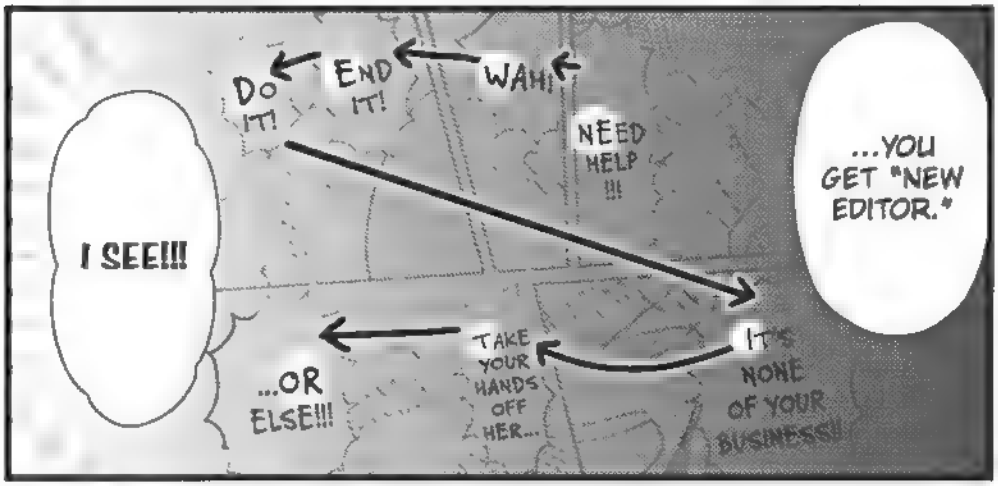
OKAY!!
I'LL GIVE HIM WHAT FOR!
IF YOU DON'T GET MAD AT PEOPLE WHO DESERVE IT, THAT MAKES LIFE WORSE FOR THE NEWBIES!!!
YOU NEED TO GIVE HIM A PIECE OF YOUR MIND EVERY NOW AND THEN. PLEASE GET MAD FOR REAL!!!

If you don't use language that's easier to understand, it makes life harder for me.
So...
HUH ...?
.....I won't... but don't you think your series have too many big words in them?
I won't make any ex-cuses!

*IN THE ORIGINAL, MAENO IS ASKING MIYAKO FOR BOTH EASIER WORDS AND FURIGANA, WHICH ARE OFTEN FOUND IN MANGA NEXT TO KANJI TO HELP MAKE THE PRONUNCIATION AND READING OF THE WORDS EASIER TO UNDERSTAND. THIS IS WHY MAENO MISUNDERSTOOD "SITUATION" AS "AFFAIR" EARLIER.

IN THE DIALOGUE? HOW?
?
IT MIGHT MAKE YOU FEEL BETTER.
IN THAT CASE ...
...WHY NOT PUT A COMPLAINT IN YOUR DIALOGUE?

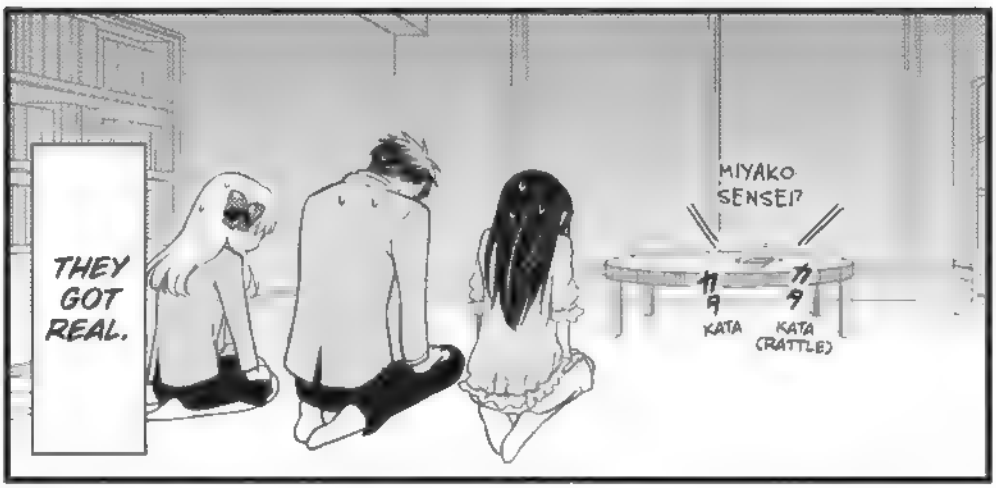
...BUT IF YOU TAKE THE FIRST LETTERS FROM THE CHARACTERS' LINES AND PUT THEM TOGETHER...
DO IT!
END IT!
WAH!
NEED HELP !!!
LIKE THIS... YOU MAKE A NORMAL MANU-SCRIPT...
...OR ELSE!!!
TAKE YOUR HANDS OFF HER..
IT'S NONE OF YOUR BUSINESS!!


I SEE!!!
DO IT!
END IT!
WAH!
NEED HELP !!!
...YOU GET "NEW EDITOR."
...OR ELSE!!!
TAKE YOUR HANDS OFF HER..
IT'S NONE OF YOUR BUSINESS!!

MIYA-KO-SAN !!!
THAT'S NOT A COM-PLAINT !!!
IT'S JUST A FACT!!!
YAH HA HA!
NOOOO!
MADE A MIS-TAKE!!
SOME-ONE HELP!!
Is THAT UNDER-STOOD?
KEEP CALM.
NUH!
TAKE THAT!

LET'S BE REALISTIC!!

THEN HOW ABOUT GOING THE OTHER WAY AND PUSHING THE TANUKI WAY TOO MUCH?
OH, I GET IT!!
MAYBE HE'LL GET A BIT MORE REALISTIC!!!
IT'S REVERSE PSYCHOLOGY!!
LET'S TRY IT!!



I DON'T WANT TO SEE A HERO LIKE THIS!!
HE'S NOT EVEN THE SLIGHTEST BIT COOL!!!
I'M...A TANUKI-PON...
LET ME TELL YOU SOMETHING AS A READER OF SHOUJO MANGA.

JUST TAKE OFF THE COSTUME!!!
YOU'RE CHANGING HIM!!?
SOME-ONE...
...PLAINER, WHO'D LOOK BETTER AS A TANUKI...
I'LL REDO THE CHARAC-TER.
A GUY WHO LOOKS LIKE THIS DOESN'T LOOK RIGHT IN A COSTUME ...
YEAH ...

• Plain face with a mean expression
• Not very emotional
• Likes the indoors
• Hobby is gateball
• Catchphrase is "Come brush my tail with me-pon."
NEW HERO
TANUKI-KUN

*GATEBALL IS A JAPANESE SPORT THAT IS SIMILAR TO CROQUET.

ARE YOU HAPPY?

KEN-SAN...MY MANGA ISN'T INTER-ESTING ENOUGH, IS IT...?
MAYBE I SHOULD HAVE SUZUKI DO SOME TRICKS OR SOMETHING ...
WHAT IN THE WORLD ARE YOU COMPETING WITH?

SAKIKO YUMENO'S PRIDE

LOOK, NOZAKI-KUN! MIYAKO-SAN DREW THIS FOR ME!
TO CHIYO-CHAN
YUKARI MIYAKO
YOU SEEM MORE EXCITED THAN WHEN YOU GOT MY AUTO-GRAPH ...!?
SAKURA...
W-WILL YOU TRADE ME FOR A DRAW-ING OF SUZUKI?
HUH?
N-NO WAY!!!
MAMIKO!! I'LL PUT HER IN THERE TOO!!
NO WAY!
UGH ...
IS IT THE TANUKI !!!?
IF I PUT THEM IN TANUKI COSTUMES, THAT'LL WORK, RIGHT!!!?
GYU (GRIP)
NOZAKI-KUN... YOU NEED TO TREAT YOUR CHARACTERS BETTER.
S-SORRY...

[ISSUE 19]

HEY, MIKO-RIN.
MY SENPAI IN THE ART CLUB WANTS YOU TO COME MODEL FOR US...
HUH!?
NO FREAKIN' WAY!!!
THERE'S NO WAY ...?
NO WAY !!!

HE SAID NO.
OH...
I THOUGHT MAYBE IT WOULD WORK IF YOU ASKED HIM, SINCE YOU'RE HIS FRIEND...
BUT IT DIDN'T...
OH!
MIKO-SHIBA-KUN.

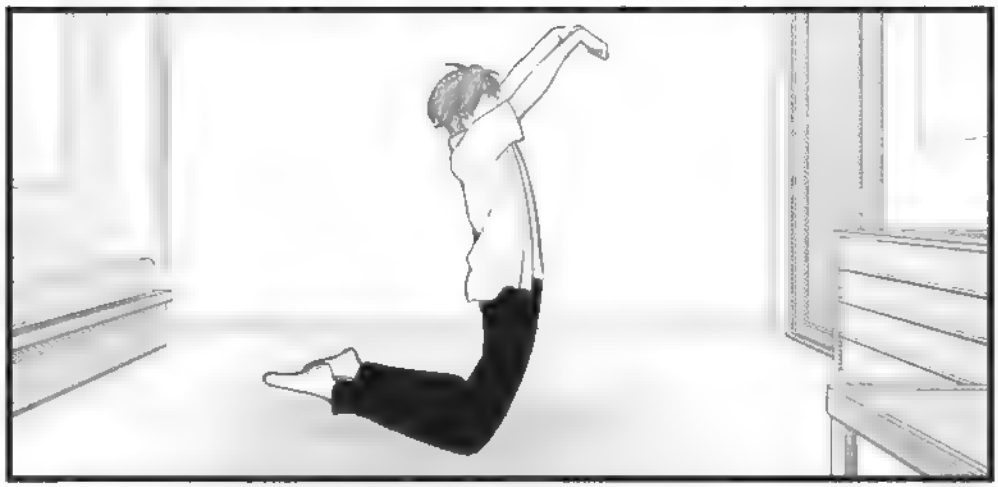
...
Model? Me?
Hey, now. Are you trying to capture my allure in a painting?
But if you can keep me with you that way...
...then I guess... I can allow it.

.....
SAKU-RA...
NO WAY.
I WAS HOPING YOU COULD...
...GET ME OUT OF IT.
NO WAY.

PRACTICING POSES

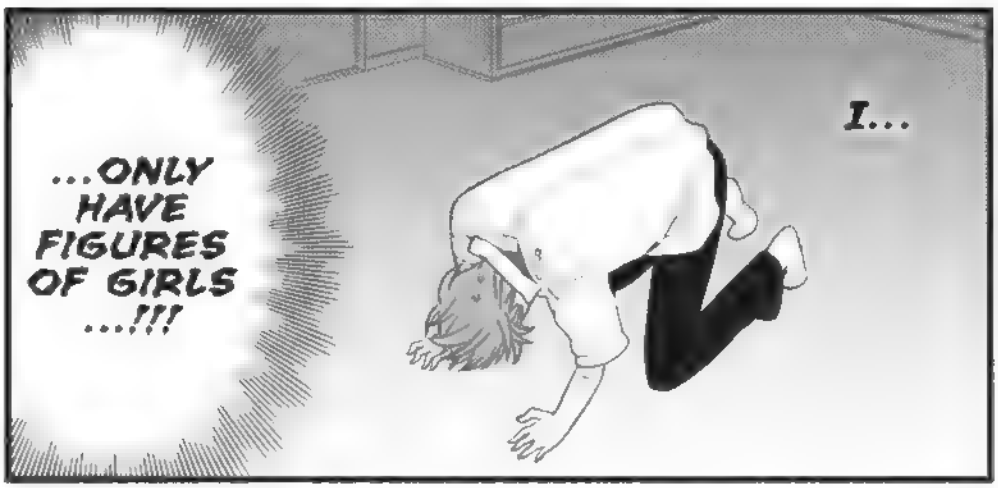
OKAY, THEN, WE'LL NEED YOU ALL DAY TOMORROW!!
A MODEL, HUH ...?
THEY WANT ME TO POSE, BUT IT'S PROBABLY NOT GONNA BE LIKE A FASHION MAGA-ZINE...
美術 ART

STUDYING POSES IN SCULPTURE
S-CURVE
A letter "S" gives a sense of motion.
When you become aware of the curves of the letter "S," you can take a pose with some movement to it
THE S-CURVE...
SO THE LETTER "S" IS BEAUTI-FUL...?



ACTION POSE
...ISN'T THAT WHAT FIGURES ARE ALL ABOUT?
WHEN IT COMES TO COOL POSES...
HMM...
WAIT A SEC...

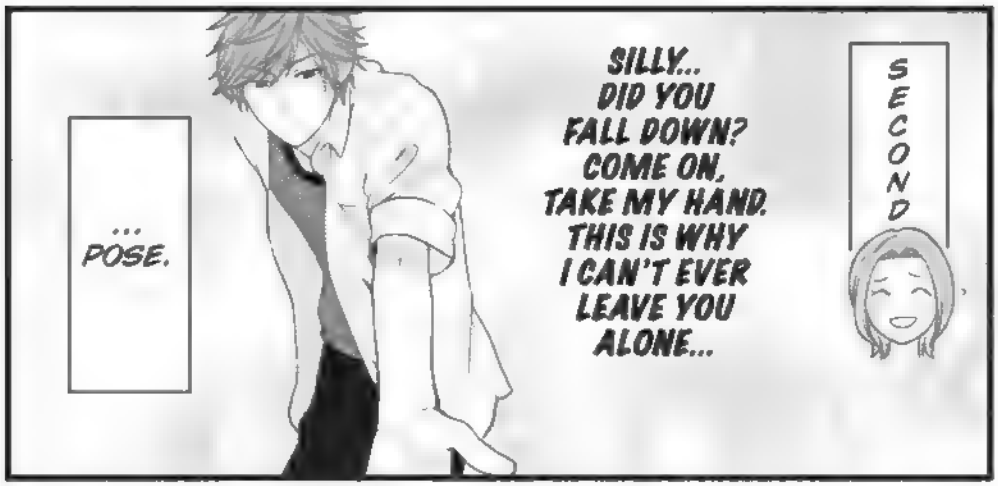
I CAN USE MY FIGURES TO PRACTICE POSES...
I'LL FIND A SUPER-AWESOME POSE!!!
I CAN'T BELIEVE MY OTAKU TASTES WOULD COME IN HANDY HERE...


...ONLY HAVE FIGURES OF GIRLS ...!!!
I...

POSE INSTRUCTIONS

WE'LL TELL YOU WHAT POSES WE WANT YOU TO TAKE, SO YOU'LL BE JUST FINE.
IT'LL BE TEN MINUTES PER POSE, THEN A FIVE MINUTE BREAK.
PHEW!
O—
OH...

SO PICKY !!!
THEN PART YOUR LIPS JUST A LITTLE AND PUT SOME SEXINESS INTO IT!!!
YOU'RE SMILING TOO MUCH !!!
... LOOK FIFTY DEGREES UP AND TO THE RIGHT WITH A CASUAL SMILE ON YOUR FACE—
...PUSH AND... YOUR BANGS TWO MORE MILLIMETERS TO THE SIDE!!
ALMOST LIKE... ...YOU'RE LOOKING AT A CUTE, LITTLE PUPPY...


...
POSE.
SILLY... DID YOU FALL DOWN? COME ON, TAKE MY HAND. THIS IS WHY I CAN'T EVER LEAVE YOU ALONE...
SECOND

...
POSE.
CAN'T SLEEP? COME OVER HERE. SEE? IT'S WARM, ISN'T IT?
THIRD

...
POSE.
A CLINGY GUY DESPERATELY BEGGING, "PLEASE DON'T LEAVE ME!" AFTER HIS GIRLFRIEND CATCHES HIM CHEATING FOR THE FIFTH TIME AND FLAT-OUT SAYS, "THIS TIME, WE'RE THROUGH!"
FOURTH

ZAWA (MURMUR)

ISN'T THIS KINDA WEIRD?
IS IT ALWAYS LIKE THIS?
AH HA HA.
LOOKS LIKE...
... EVERYONE'S GIVING YOU THE POSES THAT THEY PERSONALLY WANT YOU TO DO.

DOES THAT MEAN ...
...YOU HAVE ONE TOO?
IF THERE ARE ANY POSES THAT YOU REALLY, REALLY WANT THIS HUNK TO STRIKE, THIS IS YOUR CHANCE, YA KNOW.

YOU'RE RIGHT... THEN I GUESS I'LL HAVE YOU DO ONE...
MOJI (FIDGET)
もじっ…
IT'S A POSE ONLY YOU CAN TAKE...
SHE REALLY HAS ONE !!?
DOKI (BADUMP)
ドキッ

POSE: NOZAKI AT WORK
YOU GET IT!!!
KYAAAA!
I KNEW IT, MIKORIN!!! YOU'RE DOING IT JUST LIKE NOZAKI-KUN!!!

SAKU-RA!
SAKU-RA!
YES!!
IT'S HOT IN HERE!
SA-KURA, WIND!!
... PICKING ON ME EVEN MORE THAN USUAL...
HE'S ...

I'LL GET HIM A DRINK OR SOME-THING.
BUT IT WAS BECAUSE OF ME THAT HE GOT ASKED TO MODEL IN THE FIRST PLACE.

GATAN
GATA
GATA (CLATTER)
BA (WHOOSH)

IT'S LONELY !!!
Y-YOU IDIOT!!! DON'T LEAVE ME ALONE !!!

EVEN THOUGH WE TAKE BREAKS, I'M STILL BEAT...
GUTTARI (EXHAUSTED)
I WANNA GO HOME...
BUT SAYING THAT WOULD BE LAME...
HUH?

PLEASE !!!
DO SOME-THING AND GET ME OUTTA HERE !!!
NOZAKI !!!
PERFECT TIMING!!!
MIKO-SHIBA?

I HAVE PLANS WITH MIKOSHIBA... UM...
GOOD ONE !!!
I KNEW I COULD COUNT ON YOU!

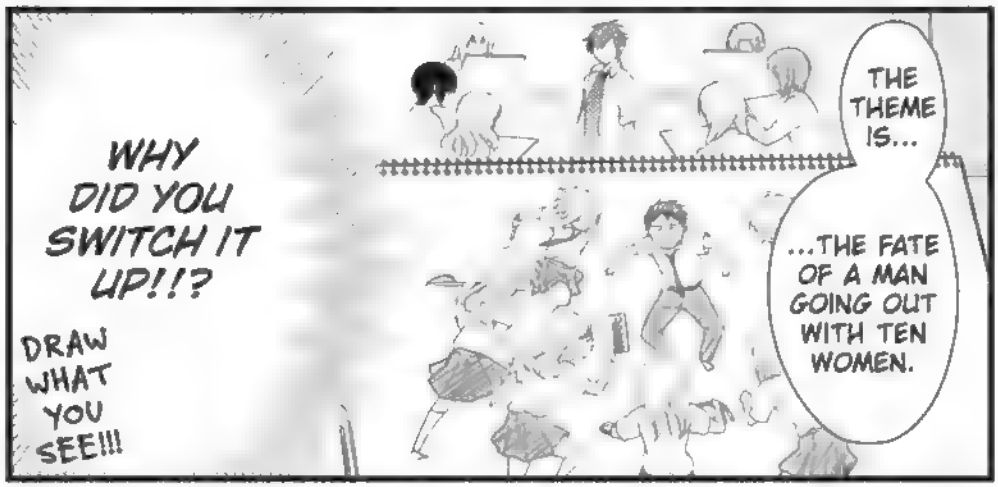
WHILE I WAIT, DO YOU MIND IF I TAKE SOME PICTURES OF THE ART CLUB?
DAMN YOU, NOZAKI !!!

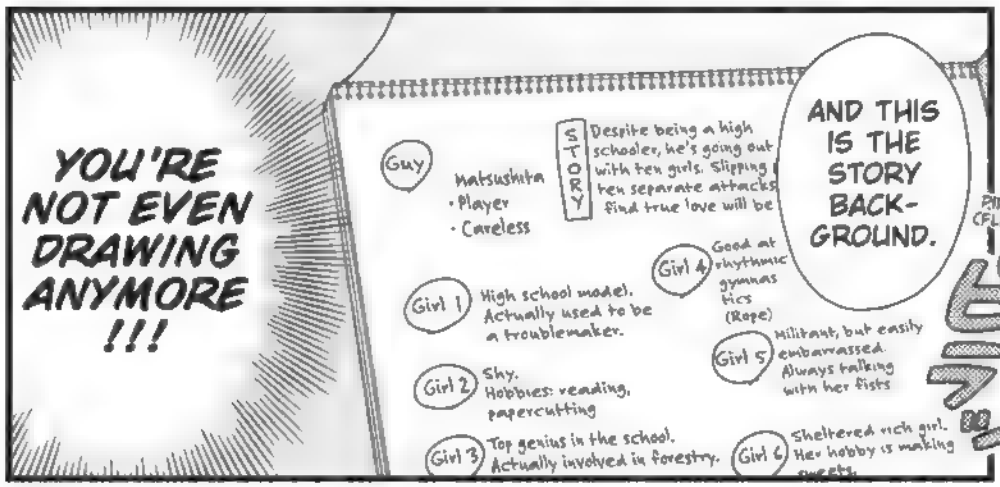
AN ALLURING POSE

FIGURE DRAWING, HUH...?
MIKORIN'S MODELING FOR US.
THEY TEND TO DO A LOT OF SERIOUS POSES FOR THAT...
I CAN'T REALLY USE IT FOR MA—
Come here.
I am...
...beautiful...!!!
I'll serve you, no matter what...!
EVERYONE JUST KINDA STARTED GIVING HIM COOL POSES...
NO, NO.
WE DON'T USUALLY DO IT LIKE THIS!!
WHERE DO I SIGN UP!?
I—
IS TOO !!!
?
BUT THIS POSE ISN'T VERY COOL.

NOZAKI-KUN'S SECRETLY SKETCHING TOO...
OH...!
KARI (SKRITCH)
KARI
KARI

SURE.
LET ME SEE!
YOU KNOW, I'VE NEVER SEEN ONE OF YOUR SKETCHES BEFORE.


WHY DID YOU SWITCH IT UP!!?
DRAW WHAT YOU SEE!!!
THE THEME IS...
...THE FATE OF A MAN GOING OUT WITH TEN WOMEN.


YOU'RE NOT EVEN DRAWING ANYMORE !!!
AND THIS IS THE STORY BACK-GROUND.
PIRA (FLIP)
Guy
Natsushita
・Player
・Careless
STORY
Despite being a high schooler, he's going out with ten girls. Slipping ten separate attacks, will find true love will be
Girl 1
High school model. Actually used to be a troublemaker.
Girl 2
Shy. Hobbies: reading, papercutting
Girl 3
Top genius in the school. Actually involved in forestry.
Girl 4
Good at rhythmic gymnastics (Rope)
Girl 5
Militant, but easily embarrassed. Always talking with her fists
Girl 6
Sheltered rich girl. Her hobby is making sweets.

YOU SURE?
WE'VE ALL ALREADY HAD OUR TURNS.
I KNOW. DO YOU WANT TO GET A POSE IN TOO, NOZAKI-KUN?

OKAY, I'LL START THE TIME—
OKAY, THEN. MIKOSHIBA, YOU TAKE THIS POSE.
PI (BEEP)

... YOU'RE HERE.
AND YOU OVER THERE...
WHAT!?
AND... ...YOU'RE HERE.
HUH?
SAKURA, YOU'RE HERE.
HUH?

THE ART CLUB WAS TAKEN OVER.

THANK YOU FOR DOING THIS.
MIKO-SHIBA-KUN!
MIKORIN'S PRETTY SHY, ISN'T HE?
HE GETS USED TO PEOPLE IF HE SPENDS ENOUGH TIME WITH THEM.
HER, FOR EXAMPLE.
BUT IF HE LETS HIS GUARD DOWN TOO MUCH...
MIKO-SHIBA-KUN.
WILL YOU MODEL FOR US AGAIN?
Are you trying to say you didn't get enough of looking me up and down all day today?
...Fine.
Next time you ask, I'll model for you in private... in the nude.
...HE GETS EVEN FLIRTIER THAN USUAL.
IF YOU KNEW THAT, YOU SHOULD HAVE STOPPED HIM.

AND HE'S TREMBLING AGAIN TODAY

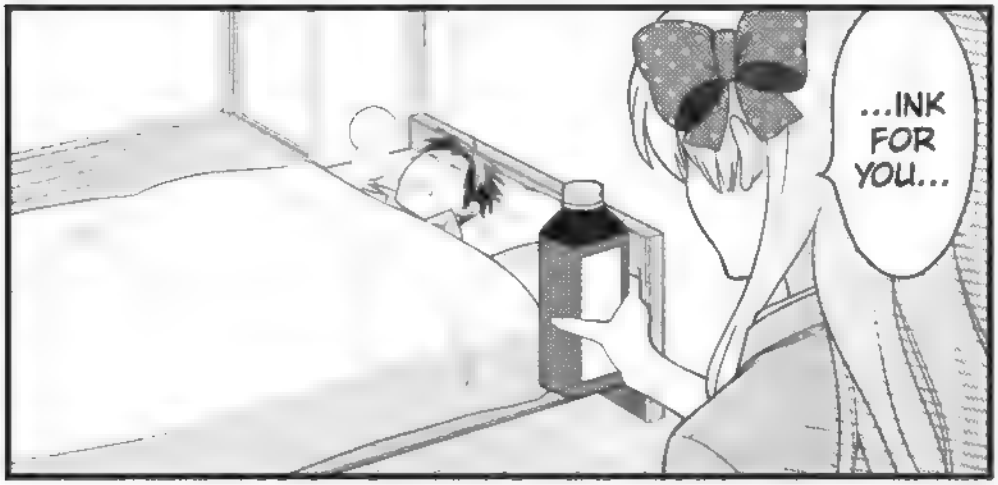
DAMN YOU, NOZAKI !!!
PON (PAT)
BE SURE TO CALL ME TOO WHEN YOU MODEL IN THE BUFF.

[ISSUE 20]

HUH ...?
SOS ...!!?
DOKII (BADUM)
ドキィッ!!
Umetarou Nozaki
sb: no subject
SOS
Reply
Menu
I GOT A TEXT FROM NOZAKI-KUN WHILE HE WAS OUT OF SCHOOL.

I'M GLAD YOU WERE HERE FOR ME...
THAT REALLY HELPS ...
SAKU-RA...
I BROUGHT YOU SOME MEDICINE ...!!!
ARE YOU ALL RIGHT ...!?
COULD THIS BE... A SO-CALLED "NURSING EVENT" ...!!!?

NOZAKI-KUN, HOW ARE YOU COMING ON YOUR DEADLINE? I BROUGHT THIS...
SUMI INK
BATAAAN (CWHAM)
ばたーーん
EVEN I CAN LEARN, YOU KNOW!!!
...YEAH, RIGHT!!


...INK FOR YOU...

NORMALLY, YOU'D BRING SOMETHING LIKE MEDICINE OR PUDDING TO A SICK PERSON'S HOME ...!!!
I'M SUCH AN IDIOT!! WHY DIDN'T I JUST TAKE IT SERIOUSLY ...!?
GACHA (KACHAK)
I GOT YOUR TEXT...
NOZAKI-SENPAI —?
GOT YOUR TEXT.
HEY, NOZAKI.

IS THERE ANYTHING WE CAN DO!?
NEVER MIND THAT. ARE YOU OKAY ...?
NAH.
SORRY, SENPAI.
I ACCI- DENTALLY SENT IT TO ALL THREE OF YOU...
SORRY ...

THE DOCTOR TOLD ME TO STAY IN BED AND GET SOME REST...
... SO ...
KOFF!
ACTUALLY... MY MANGA'S DUE TOMOR-ROW.
YEAH ...

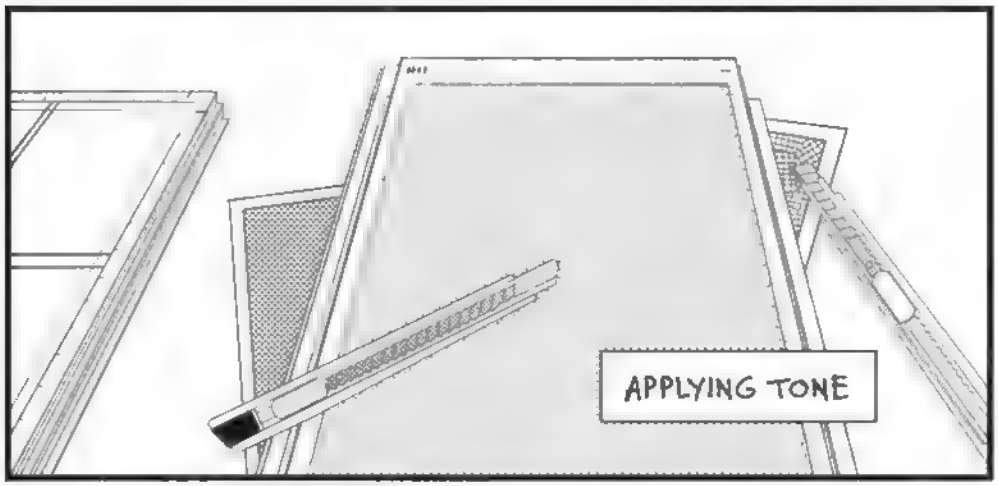
WHY THAT !!?
PLEASE!!!
...SLEEP IN MY BED FOR ME!!

WAIT... WHY THAT PART !!?
STOP HIM!!!
I'M SORRY!!!
I HAVE INSOMNIA, SO I CAN'T SLEEP!!!

THE HIDDEN STRENGTH OF A PRO

I ERASE STUFF.
I'M WAKA-MATSU.
I'M A FIRST-YEAR ON THE BASKET-BALL TEAM!!!
SECOND-YEAR.
I'M SAKURA. I DO BETA.
THIRD-YEAR.
I'M HORI. I DO BACK-GROUNDS.
OKAY, THEN ...

YUP.
EVERY-ONE'S A BEGINNER AT FIRST.
WE'LL HELP YOU!!
NO!
YOU'LL BE FINE IF YOU GET SOME PRAC-TICE!!
...BUT I DON'T THINK I'M GONNA BE ANY HELP AT ALL...
WE GOT YOUR BACK.
... WHAT'S LEFT IS...
... SO ...


...
APPLYING TONE

I'VE NEVER SEEN THIS BEFORE ...
BEGINNER
CRAP...
BEGINNER
BEGINNER

A-ANYWAY, MIGHT AS WELL GIVE IT A TRY...
I'M PRETTY SURE YOU PUT THIS STICKER-LIKE THING ON...
...AND THEN CUT IT AWAY.

UGH... I'M IN THE ART CLUB...
...BUT I'VE NEVER REALLY USED A UTILITY KNIFE BEFORE ...
AWWW, IT'S STICKING OUT...

OH, SENPAI! YOU DID IT!!
WOOOW!!
...YOU KNOW ...
...I'M IN CHARGE OF THE STUFF THAT TAKES MUSCLE IN MY CLUB.
WHAT ABOUT IT...?

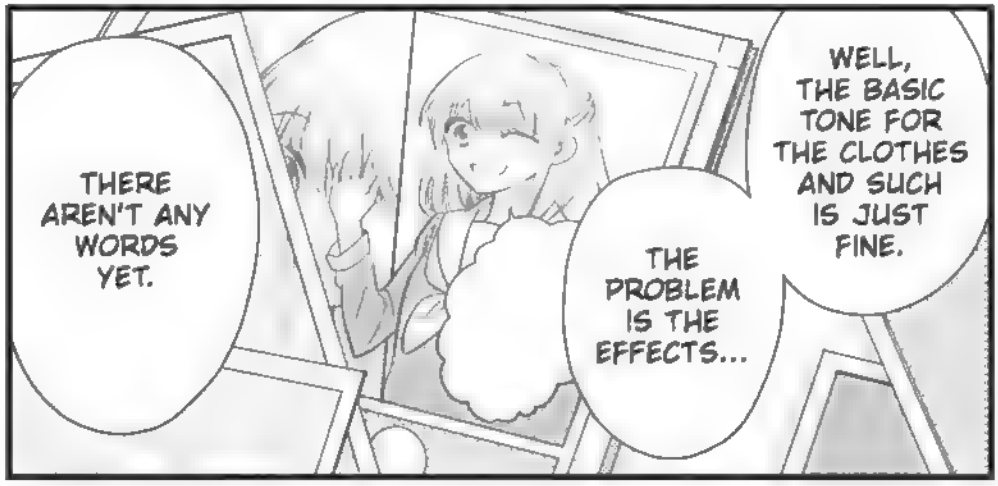
NOT THE PAPER TOO !!?
SOR-RY...
BARA (FLAP)
ばら
BARA
ばら
BARA
ばら

HA HAHA HAHA
ALL THAT SENIORITY STUFF DOESN'T REALLY MATTER IN CULTURAL CLUBS!!
W-WE'RE NOT...
...ALL THAT SPECIAL !!!
SHOULD I MAKE SOME TEA?
I'LL TRY MY BEST NOT TO GET IN YOUR WAY, SENPAI!!

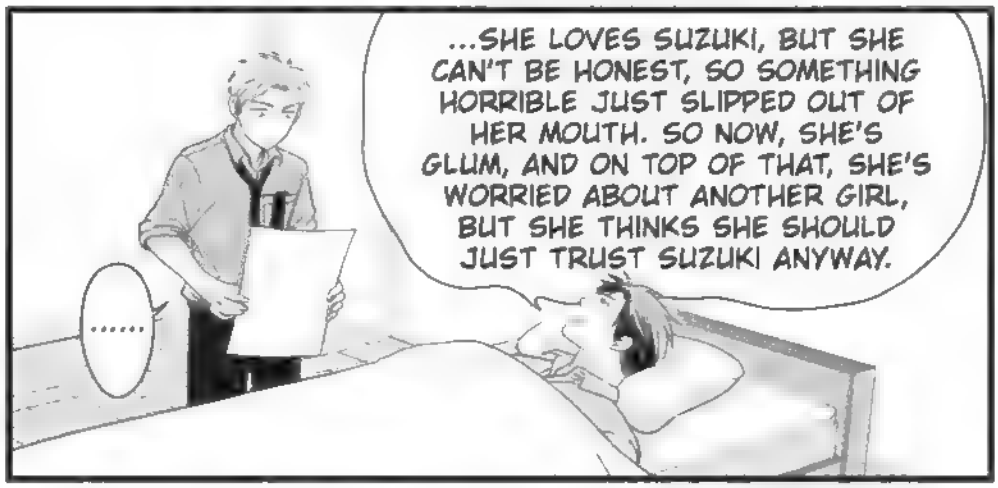
WE GOTTA ACT LIKE IT!
NOT ONLY ARE WE IN CULTURAL CLUBS, WE'RE UPPER-CLASS-MEN...
WE'VE GOT NO CHOICE ...
HISO (WHISPER)
HISO
NOW I REALLY CAN'T SAY THAT I CAN'T DO TONE!!!
S-SEN-PAI.

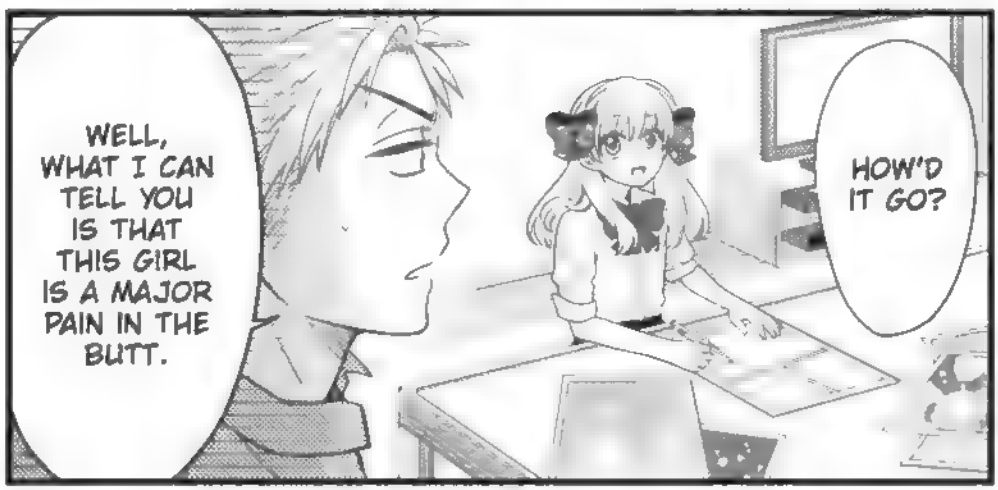
HOW DID I DO?
UM, I TRIED APPLYING SOME TONE AS WELL.

APPLYING TONE IS A FIRST-YEAR JOB!
WAKA-MATSU-KUN!
SA
OF COURSE CULTURAL CLUBS CARE ABOUT SENIORITY!
LITTLE FIRST-YEAR BOY!
SA (FWISH)

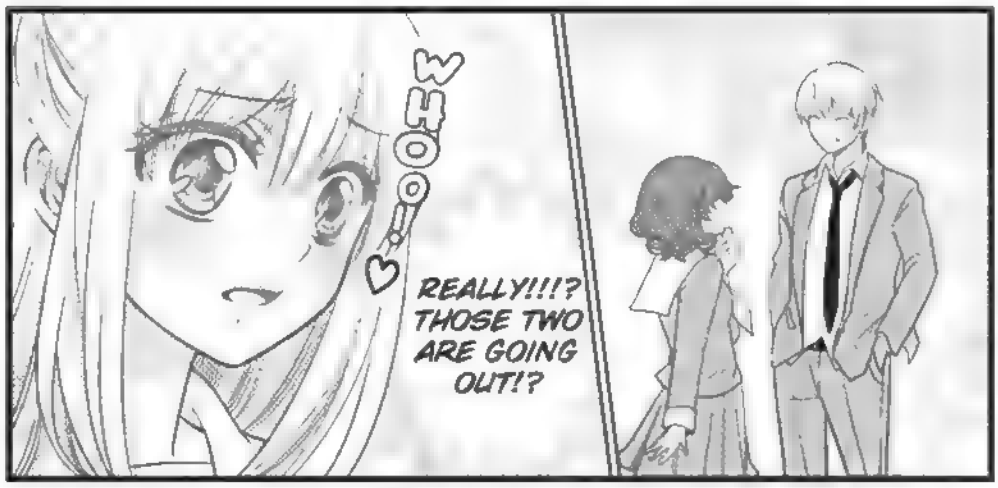

WELL, THE BASIC TONE FOR THE CLOTHES AND SUCH IS JUST FINE.
THE PROBLEM IS THE EFFECTS...
THERE AREN'T ANY WORDS YET.

SO, NOZAKI.
WHAT IS SHE FEELING RIGHT NOW?
THERE...


...SHE LOVES SUZUKI, BUT SHE CAN'T BE HONEST, SO SOMETHING HORRIBLE JUST SLIPPED OUT OF HER MOUTH. SO NOW, SHE'S GLUM, AND ON TOP OF THAT, SHE'S WORRIED ABOUT ANOTHER GIRL, BUT SHE THINKS SHE SHOULD JUST TRUST SUZUKI ANYWAY.
.....


HOW'D IT GO?
WELL, WHAT I CAN TELL YOU IS THAT THIS GIRL IS A MAJOR PAIN IN THE BUTT.

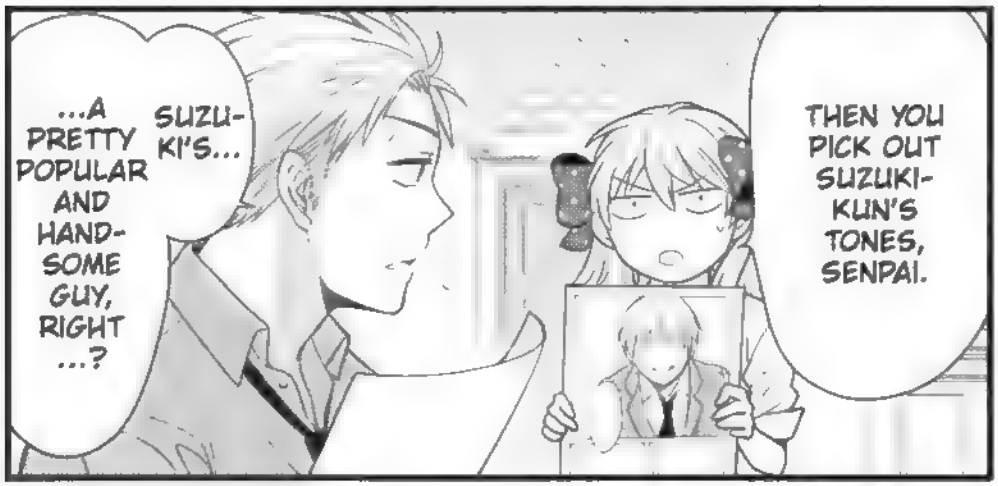
AW MAN...
WE'LL JUST HAVE TO DO IT BY IMAGINING WHAT THEY'RE SAYING...
FIRST UP IS THE HERO-INE.
CAN YOU MAKE IT WORK BY THINKING OF A GIRL IN YOUR LIFE?
A GIRL IN MY LIFE...
UMM...
WHEN SHE MAKES THIS FACE...
...WHAT SORTA STUFF IS SHE FEELING ...?
"YOU KNOW ...
"...I'M KINDA HUNGRY ..."
SERI-OUSLY?


WHO?
REALLY!!!? THOSE TWO ARE GOING OUT!?

OH... CRAP...
I THINK I'M GONNA SNEEZE...

GET LOST!!!
THAT'S OBVI-OUS !!!
!BASHI (SMACK)

YOU GUYS DON'T HAVE ANY DECENT GIRLS IN YOUR LIVES.
NOT THIS?
AND IT SHOULD BE THIS WHEN SHE MAKES HER EN-TRANCE.


THEN YOU PICK OUT SUZUKI-KUN'S TONES, SENPAI.
SUZU-KI'S...
...A PRETTY POPULAR AND HAND-SOME GUY, RIGHT ...?

A HAND-SOME GUY, HUH ...?
HA HA HA HA!

THEN...
...THIS ONE.
HUH?
JUST ONE?
YOU HAVE TO CHANGE IT DEPENDING ON THE SCENE...

KASHIMA'S ALWAYS SPARKLING, NO MATTER WHAT THE SCENE...!!
HEH!
HE REALLY IS LIKE A PROUD PAPA, ISN'T HE?

I WAS WHINING A LOT YESTERDAY, BUT I REALLY DO NEED TO FIND A WAY TO GET ALL THE TONE APPLIED TODAY...
TON (TAP)
トン
TON
OKAY. MY FEVER'S GONE DOWN.
PICHI (TWEET)
チチチ…
CHI
CHI
SUZUKI-KUN...!!!
I LOVE YOU.
NO WAY... SUZUKI-KUN IS...
SUZUKI-KUN...
.....
...IS SO GLUM...
HELLO! I'M MAMIKO!
...GET AN EXTENSION ON MY DEADLINE...
I'LL HAVE TO...

MONTHLY GIRLS' NOZAKI-KUN 2

Izumi Tsubaki

Translation: Leighann Harvey
Lettering: Lys Blakeslee

This book is a work of fiction. Names, characters, places, and incidents are the product of the author's imagination or are used fictitiously. Any resemblance to actual events, locales, or persons, living or dead, is coincidental.

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UNNGH, UNNGH.
I-I'M NOT SURE...BUT I CAN'T FORCE NOZAKI-KUN TO PICK THEM OUT WHEN HE'S LIKE THIS...

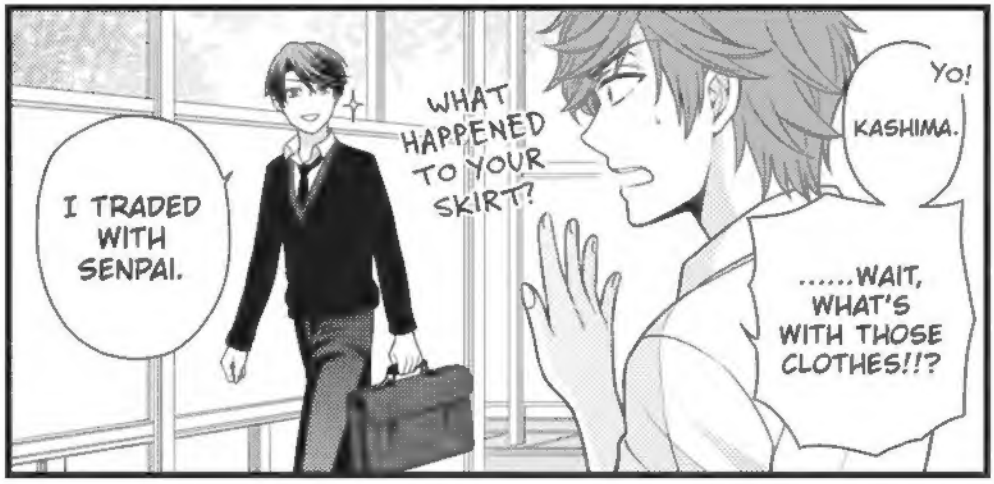
LEAVE THE DETAIL WORK TO ME!
.....
SAKURA.
CHA/ (FLIP)
I KNOW!!! I'LL CALL MIKORIN!!!

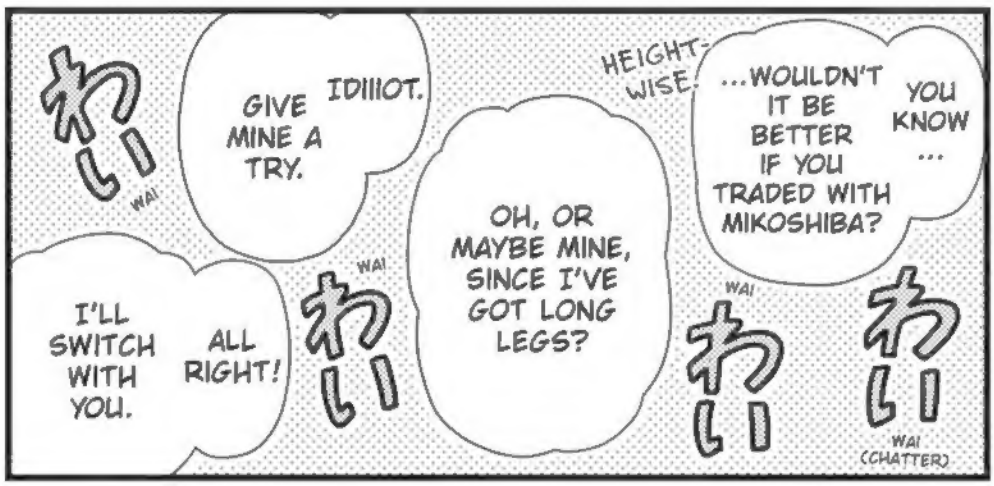
YOU REALLY KNOW A LOT ABOUT MIKORIN'S SCHEDULE, DON'T YOU, NOZAKI-KUN?
O-OH...
MIKOSHIBA'S GOING TO BE SO BUSY TODAY, TOMORROW, AND NEXT SATURDAY THAT HE WON'T PICK UP THE PHONE.

MIKO-RIN ...!!!
HE SEEMS TO LIKE SCHOOL LOVE COMEDIES.
Girl Game Release Schedule
Date
Title
Setter
Genre
YEAH. I CAN TELL MOST OF HIS PLANS JUST BY LOOKING AT THIS...

...CHI.
ZZZ...
I BROUGHT HIM SOME PORRIDGE, BUT HE'S ASLEEP...
...SAY MY NAME IN HIS SLEEP ...!!?
!!?
CHIYO.
GATA (CLATTER)
BOSO (MUMBLE)
ほそ…
WHA—?
HUH!!? WHY DID HE...
MIDORI ...
CHI-YURI...
CHI...
CHIYO-KO...
CHI...
NATSUMI ...
KA (ROAR)
JUST SLEEP ALREADY, NOZAKI-KUN!!!
I'VE GOT IT!!! THE NEW CHAR-ACTER'S NAME IS HARUMI !!!

THE AFTERMATH OF ISSUE 16





SOUVENIR

I WENT TO OKINAWA, SO HERE, SOME STAR SAND FOR YOU.
IT'S FAMOUS, ISN'T IT?
UH...
THANK YOU.

AHHH —!
NO FAIR JUST GIVING SOME TO WAKA-MATSU!
YOU'RE PLAYING FAVORITES!!
HUH?
YOU WANT SOME?

ZABAAA (CLUMP)

THERE YOU GO.
.....
.....